Book Reviews

Toponomia Hiberniae I : Barúntacht Dhún Ciaráin Thuaidh/Barony of Dunkerron North. By Breandán Ó Cíobháin. Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin: An Foras Duibhneach, 1978. Pp. xxiii + 176, maps, illustrations. Price approx. $22.50.

Place-name scholars in general, and students of Celtic toponymy in particular, will welcome the first volume in a series of studies designed to present "detailed information from oral sources, augmented by references to the original Ordnance Survey documents of c. 1840, on Irish placenames." The Irish Placenames Commission has for so many years now done such valuable work in the retrieval of local evidence from oral tradition, as well as in the early documentation from written sources, that the projected publication of a set of volumes by one of its longest-serving officers is an auspicious undertaking likely to be of benefit to scholars in many disciplines. It is also a venture of which the late Liam Price, whose *Place-Names of Co. Wicklow* has been an unimitated model for three decades, and the late Éamonn de hÓir, under whose leadership until his recent, far too early, death place-name studies in Ireland made such great strides forward, would undoubtedly have fully approved. If the first volume just published is anything to go by, we can certainly expect a thorough understanding of the problems involved, much practical experience in the art of field-work, scholarly reliability in the documentation presented, and a high degree of acceptability in the name meanings proposed. Anybody familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet will also find the broad phonetic transcriptions provided of the pronunciation(s) of almost all the names included an especially valuable feature, for the great majority of names is, of course, given in its Irish form, although an English translation is added in each case.

What must, however, be disconcerting to the name scholar who is not also a student of Celtic is the fact that the text of the book (including the foreword, the introduction, and all comments) is in Irish Gaelic; only the lists of phonetic symbols, of abbreviations and of sources have, where necessary, English translations in parenthesis. The reason for this policy given on the back cover is as follows: "The material is presented through the Irish language in the belief that the elements which make up the human environment are properly understood only in the context of the language which moulded them, and that the assimilation of that context is necessary for an appreciation of nuance and expressiveness." While this reviewer has every sympathy with the genuine desire on the part of many people, scholars included, to preserve and nourish languages which have been the vehicles of important cultures for several millennia, he finds it difficult to follow the argument that one can only write and argue about Irish place-names in Irish, English place-names in English, Portuguese place-names in Portuguese, North Frisian place-names in North Frisian, etc. Is there no room left for international scholarly debate, in spite of, or rather parallel to, internal deliberations on a more circumscribed national level? Is sensitivity to intra-linguistic nuances of expression really identical with an

appropriate understanding of the "human environment"? Surely, two completely separate issues have been confused here by a dual, conflicting application of the concept of "context," and it is only to be hoped that future volumes will take into account the fact that most potential users (and purchasers!) of the series will not have a sufficiently competent command of Irish Gaelic, or the time to acquire it, in order to receive the fullest benefit from this publication.

It would, indeed, be a pity if there were no change in policy and if *Toponomia Hiberniae* were to be consigned to literate home consumption and to the limited access available to that small band of international scholars whose bailiwick happens to be Gaelic or Celtic; for Mr. Ó Cíobháin's first volume, dealing with the Barony of Dunkerron North, near Killarney, is a first class piece of scholarship and full of promise for the whole series which deserves a better fate. Certainly for someone working on a cognate nomenclature in another country there is a rich quarry here, as this reviewer acknowledged with pleasure and gratitude. Those who are interested in the ways in which acts of naming turn a threatening wilderness into a habitable landscape will also find much thought-provoking material here. Let us hope that the remaining volumes will not be too long in coming.

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The Book of Smith. By Elsdon C. Smith. Illustrated by Frank Baginski. New York: Nellen Publishing Co., 386 Park Avenue South 10016, 1978. Pp. ix, 218. Price $9.95.

The Smiths of the world have been estimated, never counted. Elsdon C. Smith, the Smith specialist, among other specialties in onomastics and law, also estimates, even after 50-plus years of collecting, compiling, and analyzing Smith names and their variants, manifold in themselves. Based on machine counts of Social Security records, Smith states that 1.0144 percent of the surnames of the people in the United States are named Smith, or one out of every 100. The estimate then is that 2,180,960 Smiths, as of 1978, live in the United States.

When we consider and account for variants, including the 125,900 Schmidts plus the Smyths, Smythes, Smits, etc., the total moves to 2,378,440. The only other names that number more than a million—none near the Smiths—are Johnson (1,700,000), Williams (1,350,000), Brown (1,275,000), Jones (1,240,000) and Miller (1,080,000). The latter figures are strictly estimates, although based on earlier figures provided by Mr. Smith himself. In the world, the number doubles that of the United States. The Smiths number about 2,882,450; but if the figures include Schmidts, Lefevres, Herraras, Kowals, and other names meaning "smith," the total balloons to 4,736,350, probably a conservative number.

It is easier to explain why there are so many Smiths in contradistinction to the reason there are so many Johnsons, Browns, Joneses, or Williamses. Smiths and Millers were needed as skilled workmen in communities; and when surnames became required, their occupations became their names. One miller in a community was enough, but smiths

divided their labor; hence, more of them, for though they worked in metals they worked in different metals. The author says that the term *smith* meant "more specifically ironworkers," and they outnumbered all the goldsmiths, silversmiths, gunsmiths, blacksmiths, and so on to a few hundred more occupational compound names. I know of no Blacksmith, but we did have blacksmiths in the rural community where I lived. Their names were Richardson, Bunch, Magee, and Webster. The only Smith family, all still there and living, was that of John Smith, naturally. I was on a university faculty once which had a Jones as president and a Joe Smith as dean. Since it was a private college and only essential paperwork was required, Jones and Smith would often leave for an extended golfing tour in Florida. Once they returned far later than scheduled because a highway patrolman in Georgia did not believe their story that they were really Jones and Smith. Although the occupations for smiths have been phased out, except for an occasional blacksmith, the number of Smiths continues to grow.

Other surnames seem to have once meant "smith," among them Forge, White (from *hwita*, "a sharpener, armore, or swordsmith"), Wright, Marshall ("horseleech" or "horse-smith"), Carpenter, and possibly Brown and Black. J.R. Dolan, *English Ancestral Names* (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1972), pp. 29–95, mentions more than 400 occupational names that could mean "smith." Some of these are Faber, Goff, Angove, Blakesmith, Caird, Athersmith, Watersmyth, Bloom, Steel, Collier, Berner, Brenner, Spiker, Clower, Sherman (?), Bellows, Horsenail, Naylor, Keys, Kay, Kear, Wildsmith, Cutler, Blade, Claymore, Brand, Cottell, Pike, Spears, Speers, Speir, Pick, Calthorp, Cleaver, Tolver, Clubb, Mace, Keeble, Burney, Basinett, Buckler, Shields, and many more. Mr. Smith mentions Dolan but does not list any of the names appearing there. He is concerned with the "pure" Smith or its obvious variation.

The Smiths, being so common (so to speak), tend to have distinctive first names, obviously bestowed by parents who want something different in the family, anything perhaps to offset those dullards who still insist on John, James, and Joseph as forenames. As a matter of fact, a Jim Smith Society exists and has been holding meetings in Las Vegas for the past few years. Our "name game" here edges into the bizarre: Five Eighths (5/8) Smith, William McKinley Louisiana Level Bust Smith (born during a flood), and Loyal Lodge No. 296 Knights of Pythias Ponca City Oklahoma Smith, all noted in H. Allen Smith's *People Called Smith*, and repeated by Jack Smith, "On Being a Smith," Los Angeles *Times*, in Watertown *Daily Times*, Jan. 30, 1979, p. 6, col. 1. Mr. Smith has uncovered many more, one being injury compounded, Smith Smith; another, Smith Brammer Smith. A few of the more outrageous attempts to mask "no name at all" are Alpha, Omega, Major, Minor, Iowa, Missouri, Asia, Roman, Rome, Welcome, True, Worthy, Bright, Early, Polite, Smart, Voyd, Esquire, Turp, Skyring, Puck, Blind, Jar, Ode, Icycle, Vanderbilt, Orange, Iphigenia, Rj, Thyrza, and Swillin. Many more are listed, but Christ Smith should prove addition to suffice.

The origin of Smith in English is well documented as being a surname taken from *smith,* "a worker in metal," and may have been the first occupational name to be used. Smith, with pride, states, "The Smiths of today are truly descended from the most able and industrious people of the community, the ones upon whom the whole country depended both in peace and in war." On the lighter side, Smith quotes some humorous stories concerning the origin of Smith. One is that Adam in his old age felt it a duty to give distinctive names to his many descendants. Finally, exhausted in both vocabulary and in strength, he cried out, "O Lord, I am weary; let the rest of them be named Smith, and let

thy servant depart from them in peace, for verily they are as many as the grasshoppers upon the plains of Gihon." Mr. Smith has others.

Smith trivia should include some of the following: Smith County, Kansas, with the county seat of Smith Center, is the geographical center of the United States. The First Smith in America was Captain John Smith. The giant Smith family in the United States began with John Smith, founder of Barnstable and Sandwich, Mass., who came to New England in 1630, married Susannah Hinckley, sister of the governor, and had 13 children by her. Smith is used as an alias more than any other name, hotel and motel registers as testaments. Eleven baronets and 28 knights are named Smith, although they are publicly known by such names as the Earl of Birkenhead, Viscount Hambleden, and so on. A smith refused to make three nails for the cross upon which Christ was to be crucified. His wife forged them. St. Eloi, a goldsmith, was the patron smith of the smiths. St. Dunstan and St. Clement have also been called such. Smith's Dislocation on the Foot, Smith's Fracture, and Smith's Cramp are ailments. A medical test involving tincture of iodine is known as Smith's Reaction for Bile Pigments. Somerset Maugham wrote, "I often think life must be quite different to a man called Smith; it can have neither poetry, nor distinction." Colleges: Smith College, William Smith College, Johnson C. Smith University, Philander Smith College, and Paul Smith's College. Smith Day occurred on October 28, 1905, Macon, Ga. Mark Twain dedicated *The Celebrated Jumping Frog* to John Smith. These should be enough to whet the appetite for more.

One chapter, "With the Jokesmith," quotes several jokes and limericks, most of them concerning the prolificacy of Smiths. Because of spatial reasons, only one joke and one limerick will be quoted:

> Wag: (arriving late at crowded theatre), "Mr. Smith's house is on fire."
> Such a great number arose that he was afraid he had caused a riot, so, acting quickly, he cried, "It's John Smith's house."
> Two men sat down.

* * * *

> Said a pretty young student named Smith
> Whose virtue was largely a myth
> "Try hard as I can
> I can't find a man
> Who it's fun to be virtuous with."

No Smith has become president of the United States. Alfred Emanuel Smith (1863–1944) was the candidate for the Democratic party in 1928 but lost to Herbert Hoover. Al Smith, as he was known, served as governor of New York, but was identified with big city politics, favored repeal of the Prohibition Act, and was a Catholic. Three First Ladies were named Smith: Abigail Smith Adams, wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams; Margaret McKall Smith, wife of Zachary Taylor, whose daughter was the first wife of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy; and Rosalyn Smith Carter, wife of Jimmy Carter. Adam Smith (1723–1790), author of *Wealth of Nations*, certainly has had lasting effect as an economist. General Walter Bedell "Beetle" Smith was the most famous Smith in World War II and served as an aide to General Eisenhower. Another was General Holland McTyeire "Howlin Mad" Smith, commander of the United States Marines in the Pacific; Lyman C. Smith, of *Smith-Corona,* "invented the use of the lower case type for use on typewriters." Jay H. Smith invented "sticky flypaper." The Smith & Wesson revolver was invented by Horace Smith

and Daniel Baird Wesson in 1857. Elizabeth Smith stitched the first pair of bloomers. These and many others were also listed by H. Allen Smith. Joseph Smith (1805–1884) founded the Mormon church; he was killed by an anti-Mormon mob in Illinois. The Smithsonian Institution was established through a gift from James Smithson, the illegitimate son of Sir Hugh Smithson, a leading peer in England; James Smithson was also a scientist of note and is remembered also for Smithsonite, a metal named for him. Margaret Chase Smith, a Smith by marriage, is said to consider herself "a Smith through and through." She was the first woman in United States history to win a senate seat in her own right. She served three full terms and became one of the more influential members of the Senate. The Smiths have also become famous in other fields, although outside of Reggie Smith not many have earned laurels in athletics.

An anthology of poems, none distinguished, devoted to the subject of Smiths and smiths, a chapter "On Smith," a discussion of the smiths of old, and a longish glossary of "Smith surnames" round out *The Book of Smith*. The glossary lists and defines many combination forms that have not been considered in the chapters. All have been documented as surnames, but many are now obsolete. A few examples include Anchorsmith, Chappelsmith, Clocksmith, Elsmith ("foreign smith"), Messersmith ("knife-maker"), Texsmith ("maker of spears"), and "Wigsmith ("maker of idols"). Mr. Smith points out that Thomas A. Edison was known as the "Wondersmith of the World," and Chopin has been described as "a cunning fingersmith."

Elsdon Coles Smith has created a fitting memorial to his family of makers, adding to his already long career as a booksmith. Combining as he does here his scholarly ability with his knack for searching out little-known facts, he has brought before us a book that both delights and informs. And may it be, "Henceforth Ye Are All Smiths," signed "God."

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American Given Names: their Origin and History in the Context of the English Language. By George R. Stewart. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979. Pp. xiii, 264. Price $12.50.

American Given Names is described in the publisher's notice as "a fitting capstone" to George R. Stewart's "long and distinguished career," but one hopes this is not the last work of the author of *Names on the Land* (1945), *American Place-Names* (1970), *Names on the Globe* (1975), and other works such as *Storm, Fire, The California Trail*, etc. It is not the best of them.

The diversity of pluralistic America's immigrants is stressed in the Historical Sketch of about 40 pages which might well have served as the basis for a full-length book in itself. It discusses traditional names and their decline, surnames used as middle names and first names, traditions and coinages in Virginia and Massachusetts colonies and among slaves

and freemen elsewhere down the centuries as the thoroughly Anglo-Saxon names are mingled with the German ones of Pennsylvania, the Scottish ones partly derived from the popularity of the Waverly novels, and others across the continent. The materials referred to are all interesting but not all representative, though the Princeton list (1748 to 1975), while select, shows the same basic trends as the general naming pattern. Claiming that this essay is a "mere introduction" relieves the author of the responsibility of being both detailed and definite, but conspicuously absent are (for instance) notice of typically American trends, e.g., the Jewish adoption of names such as *Neil, Stuart, Norman, Irving, Murray*, and *Gloria*; the combination of names from two different origins such as *Calvin Klein, Edward Paolella, Linda Schwartz, Debbie Chang,* and *Tshombe Johnson;* and the recent invention of names such as *D'Vaughan, Diahanne, Bever-Leigh, Malcolm X, Imamu Baraka,* etc., by American blacks. Leslie Dunkling's British study *First Names First* (1977) still gives us far more information of the first names of blacks and of whites in the United States and only there, not in *American Given Names* where one might expect to find such information, can we learn that *Michael* (which was not in the "Top Fifty" names in the U.S. in popularity in 1900) was in 1975 the most favored name for boys and *Jennifer* was preferred for girls, or that *Earl, Elmer, Howard, Marvin, Eugene, Carl, Craig, Scott, Warren*, etc., are typically American names that to one extent or another have caught on in England. Dunkling has more, also, on U.S. slave names and even on the psychological studies that have detected prejudices in America against such "weak" names as *Isidore* and *Humphrey*. Both Dunkling and Stewart scan American Indian names and the new tendency toward "ethnic" names, especially those of African origin, a fault that is more regrettable in the American book than in the British one.

Stewart thinks the user of his book "will generally be untrained and comparatively uninterested" in the "intricacies of linguistic scholarship" but gives minimal information about the shifting *r*, the intrusive *n*, diminutives, and (with each name studied) etymology.

More than 200 pages of this brief book—brief compared to old classics such as Charlotte Yonge's *History of Christian Names* and recent reference books on anthroponyms—are devoted to a Dictionary, from *Aaron* to *Zuriel*. There is *Bud* but not *Bubba, Hale* but not *Harlan, Almon* but not *Alonzo,* and no *Rhett* or *Ashley* or *Scarlett* though *Melanie* creeps in. There is no indication that *Dale* can be a feminine name or *Kay* or *Jay* a name at all. *Octavius, Septimus,* and other number names are missing (though *Quintus* sneaks in under *Quentin*), especially foreign ones such as *Omar, Sen, Osen,* etc. Even Sue Browder's little *New Age Baby Name Book* (1974), which I reviewed in these pages [*Names* 22:4 (December, 1974), p. 171], listed many African, Amerindian, Arabic and Muslim, Chinese, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Spanish, and other names that are here omitted, along with some occult and fad names that, nonetheless, are being bestowed on children in these days when show business personalities are calling their offspring *God, America, Chastity,* etc. Here is *Linus* (and not *Schroeder* or *Woodstock*) but not *Lana* (remember Lana Turner?), *Constant* but not *Constantine* or *Costas* or *Kostya*, no *Liza* or *Barbra,* a *Debby* but no *Debbie* or *Debra. Prince* is here but not *Doctor, Dean* but not *Professor, Le Roy* but not *King* (remember King Vidor, since we are drawing out examples from the widely-publicized names of screen personalities—he was a director), *Myra* but not *Myrna, Miles* but not *Milo*, and little indication that there are such American names—very American names—as *Betty Sue, Marjoe, Billie Jo,* and so on. Saints for yesterday and today (as I write) such as *Benedict* and *Zachary* do not appear.

The Bible is more than adequately represented—one would think from this book that Biblical names constitute far larger a proportion of American names than they really do—but (to take Scandinavian names, for example) *Eric, Greta, Ingrid* and *Karen* are here but no notice of American friends of mine who happen to bear such Nordic names as *Astrid, Axel, Dagmar, Freya, Hedda, Lars,* and *Jens*, not to mention such rather uncommon but definitely American-Scandinavian names as *Bo, Bjorn, Bengt* (my friend is nicknamed *Bingo* from "Bengt-Ingmar"), *Einer, Henning,* etc., without having to go to the unusual (such as *Akin, Garth, Rakel, Meri, Bardo, Valborg,* etc.).

This Dictionary is neither complete nor representative. Its etymologies are mostly reliable but none of them new to readers of Withycombe's *Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names* (1945, 1977) and other well-known books. It cannot tell us why the diminutive of *Chester* is *Chet* and does not say that *Mona* need not be Celtic but can derive from Italian or even Mikwok ("gathering jimson weed seed"). With problems such as *Gay* (as in Gay Talese) or *Salvador* (which Stewart omits) or why *Stuart* and *Stewart* are regarded in New York at least as "very Jewish names," *American Given Names* is of no help at all. It does not have *Tallulah, Punch, Shane, Morton, Amman, Oral, Lynda* and *Luci*, and a lot of what Stewart (using a word he turns to far too often) would call "viable" American names.

The book is based on the birth lists of five London parishes 1540–1549 ("some useful background"); jumping to colonies at Roanoke, Jamestown, Massachusetts, and Plymouth; incorporating some useful but hardly representative lists from Harvard and Princeton and four regiments of the Continental army; and ending with notes which must have been jotted on filing cards or added as the alphabetized names were being put into the manuscript. It is interesting to read for pleasure but cannot be called complete or even accurate: one of the small errors is the misspelling of Murray Heller's given name and one of the larger ones the failure to make much of *Black Names in America, Origins and Usage* (which Heller and Puckett published in 1975). It is the product of the dean of American toponymists but not comparable to Elsdon C. Smith's works on American personal names.

This, as a critic said of a certain work by another great man (Wordsworth), will never do. It is not bad, but it ought to have been much better; and it is to be hoped that the distinguished reputation of George R. Stewart will not prevent some other scholars from producing a book that truly "places all the more common names in their historical and linguistic context" as the publishers claim *American Given Names* does. Granted, it is "a browser's delight" and no one can resist Professor Stewart's "characteristic wit," but for once his work is less than magisterial and the job remains to be done on American given names. A treatise with an index would be better than a dictionary, in my opinion.

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Zur Frage einer schichtenspezifischen Personennamengebung. Namenkundliche Sammlung, Analyse und Motivuntersuchung über den Kreis und die Stadt Segeberg. By Rainer Frank. Neumünster: Karl Wachholtz Verlag, 1977. (Kieler Beiträge zur deutschen Sprachgeschichte. Band I.) Pp. iii, 497.

The new series of Kieler Beiträge zur deutschen Sprachgeschichte begins well by interpreting "language history" in a broad sense and promising coverage of contemporary developments, sociolinguistics, and, for the first several volumes, onomastic topics. The first, a Kiel doctoral dissertation by Rainer Frank, is an admirably thorough, provocative study of class factors in the selection of given names in Bad Segeberg and environs, Schleswig-Holstein, 1940–1970, with two comparative reference groups: Essen and Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr and Trollhättan and Tidaholm in Sweden. Bad Segeberg is a comparatively rural area located on historically Low German speaking soil with traditional links to nearby Denmark and Scandinavia generally, to Friesland and more distantly to the rest of the Low Countries.

In a strong initial theoretical chapter, Frank explores the field and its terminology. He is clearly familiar with Algeo's *On Defining the Proper Name*, with German, Dutch, Nordic, French and other work in onomastics; his bibliography is comprehensive. He distinguishes *Eigenname, Familienname, Rufname* and *Kosename.* Foci of his interest are *Modenamen* and *Leitnamen.* In a closely-reasoned passage, he attempts to define the phenomenon of the *Modename* or fashionable name and to identify it as a sociological process. In his definition of *class* he cites Lenin and follows Dahrendorf on *Schicht* (stratum, class).

He distinguishes the following factors as productive of innovations or fashions in name giving: phonological or phonesthetic factors; prestige factors; factors involving (perceived) name origin; feeling-related factors; and class-related factors. Several of these may be analyzed statistically. He states that synchronic onomastics offers nine methods of analysis of a name corpus, not, however, to be used in isolation: sex-specific, orthographic, functional, formal, temporal, spatial, sociological structural and etymological analysis.

Frank begins with an analysis of his name corpus from Bad Segeberg by sex. Only three names in the corpus are unmarked for sex, i.e. can apply to either males or females: Eike, José and Maria. Morphological criteria can identify many names as male or female; for males, the Germanic second elements *-fried, -mut, -helm*; the suffix *-o*; for females, Germanic *-hild* and *-burg*, the suffix *-a* and the majority of occurrences of *-e*, often historically a weakened reflex of *-a*. However, in names of Nordic, Frisian and Low German origin *-e* is a common ending for males. The diminutive *-i* is unmarked for gender, as are *-in, -l, -s* or *-z,* whereas *-i(a)ne, -ine* and *-ina* are clearly feminine.

For Frank, functional analysis includes an examination as to whether a forename stands alone or is coupled with other names. His graph, p. 67, is striking; during the last five years of the Third Reich, single forenames were gaining in popularity, nearing 80 percent in 1944, the last full calendar year of Hitler's reign; thereafter, they fell below 50 percent but began a steady recovery and crossed the 80-percent mark in 1964; meanwhile the graphs for two and three names sank correspondingly.

The majority of the book is made up of the etymological analysis. He adopts a philological approach, disregarding popular etymologies, associations and attitudes.

Thus, for example, names identified as etymologically Hebrew include, as he himself points out, Simone, Anna, Maria, Elisabeth, Gabriele, Eva, Hanna, Martina, Michaela and Susanne, which the native speaker of German perceives as entirely indigenous. He notes, "Relevant statements on the impact of the prohibition of Jewish forenames and the liquidation or flight of Jews during the National Socialist dictatorship" cannot be made on the basis of his analyses. This is a pity, although it is inevitable from the methodology which Frank chose and the questionnaires upon which his responses are based. The point is that current attitudinal factors can be measured statistically by an etymological definition of the identity of those names which are of recent and therefore unassimilated, generally recognized origin, e.g. English names, Swedish names, Slavic or Hungarian names. But names considered Jewish may or may not be of Hebrew origin, while Hebrew-origin names like Johann or Elisabeth are not considered Jewish. One notes, incidentally, that the name forcibly applied to *all* Jewish males under Hitler and perceived by the Nazis as archetypically Jewish, Isidor, is not represented in Frank's corpus, whether before or after 1945. (One wonders whether there were such entries; Frank notes that there had been careful amendments, deletions and additions in the records, but does not go into specifics on name changes).

Space does not permit an analysis of the fashions and trends in name giving. One notes, however, that etymologically German names have been consistently more popular for males than females; for the latter, biblical, classical and Romance etyma predominate. Nordic names were popular under Hitler, declined, and then rose again, this time, however, often of contemporary Swedish or Danish, rather than mythological Old Norse, origin. Maritime links with Britain and the Anglo-Saxon world produce more English derivations in Schleswig-Holstein than in the landlocked Ruhr.

Long though it is, this monograph can only touch on many points in telegraphic style and leave the interpretation to the reader. Thus, in the listing of responses to a questionnaire on the reasons for giving names, a Kai-Uwe is annoted simply as "Politiker." We have to be aware of Schleswig-Holstein politics to realize that the baby was named in honor of the then Chief Minister of the *Land*, Kai-Uwe von Hassel. To conclude, this admirable work will be a *Fundgrube* of detail and a methodological model for years to come.

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GALE RESEARCH ORIGINALS AND REPRINTS: XXIII

This survey of original publications and one reprint by Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, is the twenty-third 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. *Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary,* Vol. I.

Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1978. Pp. xiv + 1,103. Price $45.

Gale Genealogy & Local History Series, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1978. Vol. 1, pp. xiv + 326; 2, pp. xiv + 187; 3, pp. xiv + 199; 4, pp. xiv + 273; and 5, pp. viii + 153. Price $22 each.

Slocum, Robert B., ed. *Biographical Dictionaries and Related Works,* 2d Suppl. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1978. Pp. xviii + 922. Price $35.

Zettler, Howard G., ed., under direction of Laurence Urdang. *-OLOGIES AND -ISMS: A Thematic Dictionary.* Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1978. Pp. vi + 277. Price $18.

Gale Research now has cornered the field of compilations and of bibliographical listings. *Acronyms* and *Biographical Dictionaries* are only two examples from a long list of such publications now in print and covering many technical fields. The sixth edition of the former contains 178,949 entries, according to Gale's own count. An individual just does not sit down and attempt to total all the acronyms, intialisms, and abbreviations that now take over as shorthand in both the mass media publications and technical magazines and books. The first edition (1960) contained about 12,000 entries. Although many more such terms must have been in print then, methods had not been developed to scan just about everything that could possibly thrust up new ones. Still, the growth of this "new language" has been phenomenal, breathlessly so. Crowley, the editor, says, "In modern times, breakneck progress in electronics, space exploration, and data processing brought new concepts, new projects, and new instruments. It also brought new acronymic forms to save precious inches of newsprint and precious seconds of broadcast time, to serve as cloaks of military secrecy and as spotlights on products, ideas, and programs that the public was expected to support, admire, or purchase." Somewhat oversimplified, the statement serves, however, to underline the hyperkinetic state of "communication processes," now called "communications," in "developed countries." The obsession with speed, output, efficiency (tantamount to waste in many instances, too many), and perhaps secrecy contribute to the "explosion" of this language. So far, only conjectures can be made in regard to the terms. No study "in depth" has appeared yet to help explain what is happening.

The second supplement of *Biographical Dictionaries* now brings listings to 12,094 entries. Divided into three sections, the bibliography cites works "of collective biography" that cannot be assigned to a particular country or vocation," works by country, and works according to vocation. The author, title, and subject indices make this a model reference book, but the base volume and the first supplement will be needed for any serious research and all three need to be consulted together.

The first five volumes of the *Gale Genealogy & Local History Series* contain more than just lists of magazines and books devoted to genealogy, which, from what we see and hear, is the Chinese fad of the decade, that is, the search for ancestors and the like. Perhaps the fanatical attempt to push into the past in search of identity has something to do with the high incidence of "nursing homes," those citadels for not-quite-dead-time persons. Parallels can be striking. Anyway, these are handsome volumes devoted to listings in specialties: *Black Genesis* (Vol. 1); *Czech and Slovak Americans* (2); *Survey of American Genealogical Periodicals and Periodical Indexes* (3); *Latin America* (4); and *A Personal Name Index to Orton's* "Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1867" (4). Volume 3 is the most valuable to those who are embarking

on a journey to the heart of the unknown. Despite the cost, these volumes should be available in libraries, while special volumes, including volume 1, should be at hand for those who are doing individual research. Furthermore, onomasts can find personal name material by referring to the index of each volume. Many pages are devoted to names, name changes, christenings, and name customs.

A timely book is *-OLOGIES AND -ISMS,* for suffixes are becoming quite common, not quite as ordinary as acronyms and initialisms, but enough so to be noticed more and more. Here, then, is a unique work that "enables users to identify and define words ending in *-ology, -ism, -ity, -ic,* and *-phobia."* These are not the only suffixes that occur, for *-ia, -phile, -ist,* and others are sporadically listed. One difficulty with using this text is that the terms are listed under thematic headings; the index, however, alleviates much of this difficulty. The thematic grouping probably does aid, for the method of alphabetizing the Romanic script precludes locating suffixes.

Throughout appear suffix items that have been formed from names; and, of course, many of the listings are derived from proper names, for instance, *adonism, biblioclasm,* and the like. If the compiler had searched thoroughly among contemporary mass media publications, he would have gleaned many that are derived from proper names, since the media seem to thrive on such, Nixonomics being a derogatory example. It is sufficient, however, that finally someone has begun to pay attention to the suffixes and is attempting to find a method of getting to them, despite the straitjacket of alphabetic confinement.

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Irish Christian Names. An A-Z of First Names. By Ronan Coghlan. London and Edinburgh: Cassell, Ltd.; 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG, 1979. Pages iv, 140. Price £1.95.

This is the first on the subject of Irish given names since Patrick Woulfe's *Irish Names for Children,* first published in 1923, and revised by Gerard Sleven in 1974 in a small paperback. The author notes, in a brief but informative introduction, that in recent years Irish naming patterns have changed considerably since Woulfe's work, particularly in the fall from favor of the common names such as John, William, Mary, and Annie. This fall he outlines for the years, 1900, 1925, 1950, and 1975, in an appendix. Some warnings are given on selecting the correct name for a child.

The principal part of the book lists the names in alphabetical order with origin, derivation, and history, all frequently supported by reference to usage. Valuable appendices provide lists of early Irish names and Irish names with English equivalents. A brief bibliography completes the work.

For Irish parents in Ireland and elsewhere this is a valuable and authoritative aid in the selection of an appropriate name for the new-born child.

Elsdon C. Smith

Literary Onomastics Studies, VI. By Grace Alvarez-Altman, ed., and Frederick Burelbach, co-ed. Brockport, N.Y. 14420: The State University College, 1979. Pp. 202. Price $5. Paper cover; photograph.

Excellence occurring in proceedings should be recognized when it occurs. Often, much too often (and I point the finger of guilt at myself, too) readers of papers at a conference have not had the necessary time to prepare a scholarly and exhaustive study or to reflect upon the subject in a manner consistent with the rigor demanded of meritorious work and eventual publication. Happily, I am astonished at the demonstrably high quality of the articles published from the papers read at the Literary Onomastics Conference, June 5 and 6, 1978. Usually, the common factor in such papers is a continuous dullness unmarked by any spark of any insight or by any contribution to the extension of knowledge. Fortunately, such is not the case here.

The participants, many of them internationally known scholars, have diligently, creatively, and seriously treated onomastic subjects that, although not yet sanctified by some literary critics, enhance the study of texts through analysis of the names that permeate them, adding an interpretative dimension perhaps overlooked by readers. In particular the articles by Allen Walker Read, W.F.H. Nicolaisen, Murray Heller, John T. Shawcross, and Leonard R.N. Ashley can be cited as examples of the intensity and richness discernible in a careful explication. Read in a short article amply documents "the evocative power of place names in the poetry of Carl Sandburg," whose works are not especially in favor now but whose attraction still can be felt by anyone who understands the associations between Sandburg's poetry and his celebration of the United States and its spaciousness.

The keynote address by Nicolaisen attempts and succeeds admirably within his chosen limiting of material to "shed some light" on the "way in which place names work in a regional novel." By selecting *Middlemarch* for his discussions of "name strategies," he has a "great" regional novel, with universal implication, which will give him opportunity to indicate how "landscapes" are integrated into the symbolic structure of a work of art by a consummate artist. After detailing how Eliot creates a typography, Nicolaisen points out that the habitation names "convey the notion of habitat, of space adapted to the needs of human beings and utilized by them." From this, the places are more than names, for they begin to represent relationships between and among characters and their actions. A movement between points may become a device to show irony or even loss of innocence. The names, then, become a part of human existence, not points, and, in aesthetic terms, can "lay bare the web of a literary work more plausibly and more visibly than most other approaches to a text."

Murray Heller does not become involved so much in theory as does Nicolaisen, but he provides a situation in which a comparison can be made between real names used by an author in an autobiography and invented names used by the same writer in a work of fiction. *The Narrative of William W. Brown, A Fugitive Slave* and *Clotel, or the President's Daughter* have much in common besides having been written by the same person. Heller, after disclaiming that a fictional name is ever the "real" name, shows us how Brown creates names for the novel from characters present in *The Narrative*. Heller has further evidence and even advantage in his discussions from having edited *Black Names in America,* which contains "real" names of blacks from different historical

periods. This helps Heller construct a step-by-step description of the way Brown transformed names from "non-fictional" to "fictional."

Shawcross concerns himself more with exegesis of black poetry than he does with names as such, and by so doing integrates the name with the elucidation. He shows how allusion (by name) moves from the specific to symbol, to an extended or even disparate meaning, or "symbol," as he names it, another critical term not being now available. The examples are drawn from the name-areas of "geography, politics, and music (specifically jazz)." The article takes on an importance that merits more attention than does the slight summary I have given here.

L.R.N. Ashley amasses details, names, quotations, and esoteric facts to promote the opinion that "an examination of names and the way in which they reflect or expand the author's intentions can add to our understanding and appreciation of a work of literature." Most of us who try to ensconce ourselves in the study of names hold to Ashley's belief; but, if such could be the case that this article *could* be placed before a larger audience, some literarists (Ashley lists rhetoricians, structuralists, philologians, and linguists) might be converted. Although he stresses that "literary onomastics is not very different from standard approaches to criticism of poetry," he laments "that at this late date we should still have to argue our literary colleagues into adding literary onomastics to their armamentaria of criticism." To quote extensively from the examples, as witty and precise as they are, would detract from the thesis, but I cannot forego Ashley's account of translating from Alfred Jarry's *Ubi Roi* two names that in English should be Heads and Tails as Rosenstern and Guildencranz. Even Tom Stoppard would appreciate knowing about this.

Although I may have been selective to the point of offensiveness, the other articles deserve condign attention, because they too contribute to the overall excellence of this collection. The papers treat names in works by Ionesco, Rulfo, Meredith, Fitz-James O'Brien, Hitchcock, *Awntyrs Off Arthure,* popular literature, Basque Literature, *The Maltese Falcon,* and Beckett. René Coulet du Gard's "Call Me Madam" belongs in a category to itself. Last, Professor Grace Alvarez-Altman has definitely advanced the study and "discipline" of onomastics with this collection, one that just may be the best among onomastic and critical essays published so far. Perhaps its very existence will prompt others to emulate or possibly surpass it.

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Canada: Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, United Nations, Athens, 1977. Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, Canada Map Office, 615 Booth St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E9, 1978. Pp. vii + 323. Price $6.

The rapid change in governments among both the older and also more recently established countries and the abandoning of colonialism have created a need for standardization of names, a more than passing whim of those who hold temporal power. For instance, officials and news commentators have urged a standard for Englishing

Chinese names, now that the United States and China have begun to exchange ambassadorial representatives and to trade with each other. No longer is it acceptable to use names that appeared on maps of African colonies of only a few years ago. The matter is of sufficient importance for members of the United Nations to take cognizance of the problem and to set about means of coping with the difficulty through establishing a committee and conferences under its auspices to make such recommendations as are deemed necessary to work toward standardization. So far, three conferences have been held, with participants, primarily from disciplines in geography, who have the expertise and credentials for overcoming at least some of the more pressing impediments hindering terminological standards.

In this third conference were 152 participants from 52 countries, and representatives from "11 intergovernmental and international scientific organizations." For the record, Canada and the United States were represented by seven each. Executive secretaries of boards of geographical names were present from each country. Dr. M.F. Burrill headed the delegation from the United States.

As is true with many such international conferences, progress or just plain movement becomes snail-paced, if that. Sometimes, national interests "a backward move" make, crab-wise. Protocol also demands a certain amount of ritualistic stroking through praises bestowed, noting paper-pressed executive secretaries for their hard work, citing past conferences for contributions, and wishing the delegates a "fruitful participation and a pleasant stay in the birthplace of science and democracy" — Athens. Such pleasantries have become necessary and do help smooth the rocky road toward partial solution.

This conference, however, made progress in the form of some practical resolutions and surprising reports. The plenary session summary reflects the Asian areas. The Asia South-West Division had held four formal meetings since the Second Conference. Furthermore, the China Division and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presented "their national reports simultaneously with their divisional reports," giving "a broad view on the amount of work done in their respective areas." Western European divisions held at least one conference during the time. As suspected, the "Romano-Hellenic and the United States of America-Canada Divisions" kept in contact through correspondence. Less need for standardization seems to be felt in those areas. Canada, however, has a singular problem, especially within one province.

Gazetteers are now in preparation or have been published in many of the countries; such publications were under consideration in other countries. Several countries (Canada among them, but not the United States) reported "detailed information on the field collection of names," as suggested by recommendations made in previous conferences. Lists of exonyms now exist or are in stages of preparation in "Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Iran, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." Some delegates concerned themselves with comments on renaming in countries that had been occupied by others. The delegate from Nambia pointed out that Nambia should be recognized as the official name for what was once called Southwest Africa. Delegates to the Conference also endorsed the formation of a district covering "Africa Central."

Five technical committees were formed to discuss and make recommendations: national standardization, automatic data processing, exonyms, writing systems, and international co-operation. Committee I stressed field collections and methodology, as well as providing means for training field collectors. Again, as in previous conferences,

"the importance of national standardization as a basis for international standardization" was stressed and given a priority. Problems and inaccuracies in terminology were noted, especially in the three-language glossary of English, Spanish, and French, which had been circulated in 1977.

Committee II dealt with gazetteers and automated data processing, the latter being used extensively in the United States through the "computer-based Geographic-Names Information System." Much of the suggestions made by this committee were deferred for futher study and considerations: the project for a United Nations Concise Gazetteer, "guidelines for the spelling and pronunciation of names in a gazetteer," and "the possible use of a United States Board on Geographical names (BGN) gazetteer, as amended by the country covered, . . ."

Committee III faced the problems of defining "exonym," but came to no satisfactory conclusion. Some agreements prevailed, such as that spellings should not differ from originals, diacritical marks must be honored and used, inflectional endings, declensions, and derivations, among other grammatical features, could be omitted within reason and by agreement with authorities in the countries involved, and the conversion "from one writing system to another should, as a rule, not be considered as constituting 'exonymisation.'" General agreement was met on recommending that a reduction of exonyms must take place.

Since domination by the Roman alphabet, merely because it has been in use by conquering and exploiting nations, has prevailed, the Committee accepted the chair's proposal that discussion "should be based on the report of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System" that had been contained in a proposal deriving from the 1969 conference. Naturally, some countries simply did not agree with the romanization project and did not report on it. Some, however, have "officially" adopted such: Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somali, and Korea. Other countries reported no progress or only changes on maps. Others wished to consider the matter further.

International co-operation, the subject for Committee V, was reiterated from previous conferences. Indeed, the fact that so many countries were represented indicates co-operation. Problems concerning expenses incurred (especially by delegates who would not be recompensed), reliability statements, exchange and availability of name changes and pronunciations, and technical assistance were examined. Much of the work of this committee will hinge upon acceptance by programs already developed within the structure of the United Nations. Experts, advisers, equipment, and training of research fellowships need funds that may by others be considered for other, more appropriate uses.

Twenty-seven resolutions were adopted. Because of their importance and interest, they are noted here in order as listed: for the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, format of International gazetteers of countries, automated data processing, reliability statement on geographical names in documents, divisional activities and meetings, list of country names, aids to pronunciation, romanization of Chinese geographical names, romanization of Arabic characters, Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet, Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia, transliteration into Roman and Devanagari scripts of the languages of the Indian Division, the romanization of the Hebrew alphabet, glossary of technical terminology, training courses, national standardization, names of countries, study of exonyms, lists of exonyms, names of features beyond a single sovereignty, maritime

feature names, undersea feature names, extraterrestrial feature names, use of the Arabic language as a working language at future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, single romanization system for each non-roman writing system, African geographic/linguistic divisions, and vote of thanks. Each resolution is described in rather precise terms.

Papers and remarks, mostly pertaining to Canada but several with universal applications, appear in the text. Perhaps these constitute the more essential material, for in them can be seen the inner-working practicality of the conference. Brief mention is all that can be made here: Jean-Paul Drolet's remarks on "China's proposal for adoption of the Pinyin system," Drolet's paper on the "developments in Canadian Toponyme 1972–1977," G.N. Ewing's "Treatment of Undersea Feature Names," A. Stevenson's "New Inuit Orthography for Geographical Names," Yar Slavutych's "Slavic Contribution to Canadian Toponymy," Michael B. Smart's "National Standardization Exonyms," "Extract from the Published Proceedings of the Société du Parler français au Canada," Henri Dorion's "Practical Considerations Involved in Defining the Term 'Geographical Names,'" and "The 'Didactic' Problem of Eliminating Exonyms," P.J. Roulston, "Field Collection of Geographic Names in the Province of Ontario," Christian Bonnelly, "Jurisdiction and the Standardization of Geographical Names in Québec," Judith Grenon-Roy's "The Computerization of Geographical Names: The Québec Experiment," W.B. Yeo's "Toponymy Research at the Federal Level in Canada," Mary LaHam's "Gazetteer Production and Names Processing at the Federal Level," Michael Munro's "The Treatment of Toponyms in Manitoba from Languages without an Alphabet," and Alan Rayburn's "Reflections of Greece in Canadian Toponymy." The book is published in both English and French.

The delegates from the Government of Iran presented an invitation to have the Fourth Conference held in that country. It was accepted, September 7, 1977. This matter may have to be renegotiated in light of recent events.

Jean-Paul Drolet, Chairman, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names," in his "Preface," sums up the importance of this document: "It is my hope that those who are interested in geographic names and the many problems inherent in the determination of universally acceptable geographical names and principles may find this report constructive and informative."

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