

Personal Name Studies

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IN *NAMES* 1:3 (September, 1953), I discussed all the books then published in English on personal names, and mentioned the more important of those in existence up to that time. But, since then, many books on the subject have been published, engendered possibly by the American Name Society and various European scholars. It is time now to list not all the works published, but all the important studies that have appeared since the above article was prepared, to help the student in focusing his attention on those truly authoritative.

An attempt is made here to list the books by years, as some will be interested in only the most recent. As I have attempted to collect everything in the English language on the subject of personal names, all the following are, of course, in my private library.

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Kolatch, Alfred J., *The Name Dictionary, Modern English and Hebrew Names*. New York, 1967.

Maduell, Charles R., *The Romance of Spanish Surnames*. New Orleans, 1967.

Matthews, Constance Mary, *English Surnames*. New York, 1967.

Reaney, Percy Hide, *The Origin of English Surnames*. London, 1967.

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Alvarez, Grace de Jesús C., *Topónimos en Apellidos Hispanos*. Garden City (N.Y.), 1968.

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 Woods, Richard D. and Alvarez-Altman, Grace, *Spanish Surnames in the Southwestern United States*. Boston, 1978.

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- Coghlan, Ronan, *Irish Christian Names. An A-Z of First Names*. London and Edinburgh, 1979.
 Morgan, Jane, O'Neill, Christopher, and Harre, Rom, *Nicknames; Their Origin and Social Consequences*. London, 1979.
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Many books and pamphlets on how to select a name for the new baby are published, most of them of little or no value. Many have thought that a couple hours in a library would qualify them to compile such a work. One author wrote to me, saying rather sorrowfully that he would not have published his work if he had known that other such studies existed.

There are several books and pamphlets on African names, Arabian names, Hindu names, etc., none of them really comprehensive, but a few have been included in the above list because their very scarcity demanded it.

Because so many personal names are derived from place-names, some of the more important place-name books might have been included in the above list, the 53 volumes of the English Place-Name Society and Eilert Ekwall's *The Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Fourth Edition, Oxford, 1960, for instance. The outstanding books on place-names in the European countries must also be included.

Oh yes, I recognize that what one student considers important another feels that he can do without. To draw the line between "important" and others presents difficulties. This list is only my personal opinion.