

## Book Reviews

*35000 Prénoms d'hier et d'aujourd'hui.* By Marie-Andrée Fournier. Paris: Robert Laffont, 1979. Pp. 370. Price 69 French francs. ISBN 2-221-00161-3

The initial intent of French researcher Marie-Andrée Fournier in compiling a listing of "First Names of Yesterday and To-day" was to provide bewildered new parents or parents-to-be with a large choice of possibilities in the naming of their offspring, along with pertinent information about these names, recognizing that selecting a baby's first name, which is likely to bring lasting affective and social repercussions, is not only an arduous task in most cases but also a momentous decision. The "Dictionary" thus provided proves to be fascinating reading, of value to anyone interested in names, serious researchers included.

In her introduction, Marie-Andrée Fournier has pointed out the crucial importance of a first name or given name. At the start, it embodies the parents' secret hopes regarding physical, moral, or intellectual qualities they wish their baby to be endowed with. Such a notion is related to the cult of the patron saint, who is to inspire and to protect, and in a way represents a sort of deliberate predestination. Furthermore, social factors are not to be ignored. As the name reveals the person, will the projected image be positive or negative? Apart from the meaning or the melody of the name which both create an initial impression, there remains a highly subjective unknown factor, since the individual reaction is based on previous encounters with other persons of the same given name, in real life or in fiction. Objectively however, a given name stands as the outward sign of some allegiance, to a country, a place of origin, family history, a profession, moral or political choices, or favorite literary associations, etc. . . . Thus, before the name-bearer is actually known, the name serves as a significant label from the start.

The history of people's names in the Hebrew, Greek and Latin civilizations is briefly retraced by Madame Fournier in her initial presentation. She points out that, up to the 5th century, the Gauls adopted the Latin system but that they quickly shifted to Germanic compound names at the time of the Great Invasions (for instance, *Robert*, from *Hrod*, glory, plus *Berth*, bright). In Roman Gaul, the germanization of names quickly spread and had become fairly general by the end of the 9th century, except in the South, more strongly latinized. Thus the substratum of French first names is largely Germanic in origin, although somewhat transformed and latinized. The Middle Ages brought on the cult of the saints, hence a wide new choice of "Christian" names, honoring the many martyrs of the Christian church. Because of the great popularity of certain regional or national saints, many homonyms were found throughout the country, hence an additional need for surnames and nicknames derived from professions or placenames. Thus came about, in Christianized Europe, the distinction between the first name (or Christian name) and the family name, between the 13th and 15th centuries.

Since Mme Fournier has compiled her book with French parents in mind, she

provides up-to-date information as to present French legislation (1966) concerning eligibility of first names for the newborn, and compares it to the practices in use in neighboring nations (Great Britain, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland).

In the complete title of her scholarly work, Mme Fournier has clearly indicated the classification she has adopted. It reads as follows: "Choose from 3500 new or traditional, mythological, historical, regional or ecological First Names of Yesterday and To-day." Accordingly, we find separate listings for each of the categories indicated (along with date of feast day, actual or suggested), plus an alphabetical listing of all 3500 first names which constitutes the *pièce de résistance* and makes delightful as well as informative reading. Each entry lists feast day, etymology, history, derivatives, and Zodiac sign. These entries are the result of thorough researching of a variety of reputable sources (including of course the Albert Dauzat dictionaries) and work done at university libraries (Sorbonne, Oxford) and at the French National Library. Private collections and regional resources have also been tapped, particularly in relation to Celtic names, which are excellently documented and constitute a large part of Mme Fournier's dictionary. Notices are factual and concise, and show a wide range of information. Some may seem regrettably brief, but it is of course impossible to mention "everything" in a dictionary intended primarily for practical use. Anyone looking up a familiar favorite name may regret the absence of some well-known detail, but is likely to be acquiring new knowledge instead. For instance, this reviewer looking up her first name did not find the expected mention of the Biblical prophet in the lions' den but that of 5th-century stylite who spent 33 years of his life up a pillar to be closer to God! There are few references to Biblical figures as such (*Samuel, Bethsabea, Esther* and *Ruth*), but there are some surprises in store concerning hagiographic figures bearing Biblical names: for instance, *Elie* (Elijah) is recorded as a 3rd/4th-century martyr, *David* and *Samson* as 5th/6th-century Welsh monks, *Isaac*, a 6th-century hermit, a native of Syria, *Salome* as a 9th-century English princess, and *Salomon* as a 9th-century martyr at the hands of the Moslems in Cordoba, Spain.

In another field, *Electra* is identified as Atlas' daughter in Greek mythology, while no mention is made of the more famous Electra who inspired Jean Giraudoux and Eugene O'Neill. Under the names *Tristan* and *Yseut* (or *Ysoie*), no reference is made to the medieval love story. Apparently, literary references are voluntarily left out by Mme Fournier: it is *not* one of the categories announced on the title page. Space limitations and specificity of intent may have played a part in the deliberate exclusion. However it is only fair to note that references have been made to literary figures when no Christian saint is known, as in the case of *Rowena* and *Roxane*.

Old-fashioned French names are rescued from oblivion by Mme Fournier, with information as to their origin or etymology, such as *Elphège* (from Latin *effulgere*, to shine) and *Ludivine* (from Latin *ludiviga*, the one who plays). Clues given sometimes open up new problems, such as *Lorna* being explained as created in the 19th century from the family name of the Marchioness of Lorna. Fine, but who was the Marchioness? What made the family notable? Perhaps such unresolved enigmas will spur on some other researcher.

Following the 282-page dictionary (on two columns to the page) which constitute the First Part of the work, we find in the Second Part additional listings of interest. Mme Fournier has compiled a list of some thirty saintly thaumaturges, echoing the cult of local saints still found in French country churches and transmitted through tradition, from *Adrian* ("who saves from the plague") and *Agatha* ("who protects from fire and

from volcanic eruptions”) to *Marina*, the patron saint of pregnant women, and *Solange*, “who relieves the fields from drought.” Another selective listing presents patron saints connected with trades and professions, from *Albert*, the patron saint of scientific research, to *Zita*, the patron saint of household servants. Such lists might prove of special interest to medieval art buffs to identify statuary or stained glass windows honoring these saints. The three lists which follow have less interest for foreign readers, as they record male and female compound first names (type: *Anne-Alexandra* or *Charles-Adolphe*) acceptable under French law as established by the *Code Civil* in 1803 and revised in 1966 under the Fifth Republic. However, the final section referring to the four name categories announced on the title page (i.e. historical, regional, mythological, and ecological) has much to offer according to the reader’s special interest.

Historical names are defined as borrowed from Christian saints throughout history, and therefore arranged in three groups: “Antiquity” (1st to 6th century), “Medieval Times” (6th to 15th century), “Modern Times” (since the 16th century). Such a classification accounts for the absence of a reference to the Bible whenever a saint bearing a Biblical name appeared in the Christian era.

Dialectal differentiation is taken into account and variations of the same name are given with their place of origin. For instance, *Françoise* becomes *Frances* or *Francine* in Southern France, *France* in Aquitaine, *Franseza* in Brittany, *Fanchon* in Normandy and *Fanchette* in Berry/Bourbonnais. The 9-page alphabetical listing of names characteristic of a given French region may be of special interest to American readers who will spot familiar names in use in the U.S.: from Alsace, *Frida*, *Gretel*, *Hilda*, *Jack*, *Max*, *Oswald*, *Trudy*, *Walter*; from Brittany, *Arthur*, *Gladys*, *Kevin*, *Lana*, *Yvonne*; from the Northern Provinces, *Astrid*, *Baldwin*, *Brigitte*, *Eileen*; from Auvergne, *Archibald* and *Mabel*; from Southern France, *Angela*, *Césaire*, *Donna*, *Gerald*, *Gregory*, *Magali*, *Miranda*, *Silvana*, all from Provence, and *Elissa*, *Enrique*, *Esteban*, *Florian*, *Gaston*, *Nora*, from Occitania (Aquitaine). Not to forget *Thierry* from Picardy and *Millicent* (= *mille chemins*, a thousand ways) from Normandy!

The other two classifications retained by Mme Fournier are “mythological names” (gods, goddesses, nymphs and heroes) and “ecological names” (flowers, gems, anything pertaining to Nature). From these lists which read like poems or madrigals, let us quote a few examples. From the mythology list, *Ariane*, *Calliope*, *Calypso*, *Clio*, *Danaë*, *Daphne*, *Hector*, *Jason*, *Melissa*, *Moirra*, *Oreste*, *Penelope*, *Rhoda*, and the various names of *Diana* (*Diane*), *Cynthia* (honored at Mount Cynthis) and *Delia* (native of Delos). The ecology list includes flowers like *Althea* (hollyhock), *Daisy*, *Lotus*, *Rosa*, *Rosemary*, *Suzanna* (Hebrew, lilies and roses); precious stones, like *Beryl*, *Esmeralda*, *Margaret*, *Pearl*, *Ruby*, or *Amber*; also, references to Nature such as *Aurora*, *Stella*, *Phyllis*, *Silvana* and *Sylvia*. As Mme Fournier remarks, group classifications actually overlap: *Iris* and *Melissa* are both ecological and mythological; *Gwen* is “historical” (a 5th-century Celtic saint), “regional” (from Brittany) and “ecological” (meaning “white, pure”) at the same time. *Clara* is both “historical” (12th century) and “ecological,” and so forth.

A summary of “General Characteristics of the Zodiacal signs” constitutes the final entry. Madame Fournier lists beneficial elements attributed to each sign, its animal, flower, birthstone, colors and fragrance, as well as the traditional character traits.

The bibliography of sources used is given at the end.

An attractively bound volume, *3500 prénoms d’hier et d’aujourd’hui* is not only easy

to handle but also pleasant to the eyes, with an elegant marble swirl cover created by artist Guy Sabadie, tastefully blending with the topic covered within. As a reference book, it is both practical and scholarly. It is a mine of pleasing discoveries, sure to appeal to anyone interested in names and their special magic.

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*The Street Book: An Encyclopedia of Manhattan's Street Names and Their Origins.*

By Henry Moscow. New York: Hagstrom Co., Inc., 450 West 33rd St. 10001, 1978. Pp. 119. Illus. Paper covers. No price listed.

*Manhattan* is one of the better known place names in the world and justifiably so. This is not the place to recount the cultural and cross-cultural wonders of this borough of New York City. The borough remains, in essence, the heart of the City, with my apologies to polemical defenders of other boroughs. All schoolchildren in the United States surely have been astounded by the story of the sale of the island, now Manhattan, by the Indians living there to the Dutch for 60 gilders, which authors of history books proudly translated into \$24 to illustrate the sometimes value of a sharp trade in a free-enterprise world. The island came to be known as New Amsterdam, easily changed to the equally prosaic, unimaginative name of New York when the British regained it in 1673 and called it New Orange. The next year the Dutch traded it for Surinam, probably a favorable trade, considering the differences in climate and terrain. In 1783, the British abandoned the City to the colonists and the new nation. The British had more important affairs to attend to in India. Soon after, the island became known as Manhattan and remains so.

George R. Stewart, in *American Place-Names*, writes that *manhattan* or *manhatta* "may be taken to mean 'island-mountain,'" but the terrain militates against this interpretation. The name, however, is certainly that of a tribe and is so usually accepted. Moscow lists the fanciful translations, such as "the place where we all got drunk" and "People of the Whirlpool.' Except for Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Place, and Indian Road, derivative names from Indian languages do not exist on the island. Cherokee Place does not qualify, being taken from the Cherokee Club, "formerly a powerful satrapy of Tammany Hall.'

Manhattan has become a mausoleum of incongruous names, a naming pattern that deviates from the crazy quilt-work of Indian derivatives, possessives, transfers, descriptives, or incidentals that appear across the United States. Perhaps isolation and growth pattern had something to do with the large number of commemoratives that have come to be the mark of Manhattan's thoroughfares: Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, Admiral George Dewey Promenade, General Douglas MacArthur Plaza, A. Philip Randolph Square, Asser Levy Place (for the city's first kosher butcher), Avenue of the Finest (for the police), Charles H. Revson Plaza (for the "mastermind of Revlon, Inc."), Duke Ellington Boulevard, Harry Blumenstein Plaza (for a deputy inspector of police), James J. Walker Park, Marcus Garvey Park, Nathan D. Perlman

Place, Robert F. Wagner Sr. Place, Sara Roosevelt Parkway, and York Avenue (for Alvin C. York, World War I hero). This movement, which may occur elsewhere, to give full names of the memorialized seems to be new, although such names as George Washington Bridge and W. H. Seward Park existed as models. Anyway, do not flip to "S" to find Seward, for it will only be found in "W."

Despite everyone's interest in Manhattan and its place names, this "encyclopedia" does not measure up to any standards, except as a repository of miscellaneous information. Moscow could have followed the method used by John McNamara, *History in Asphalt*, which covers the Bronx, but, of course, this was not before him. McNamara's careful and exhaustive work probably should not be mentioned in the same paragraph, except that it serves as a criterion of what can be accomplished by someone who energetically and intelligently applies rigor to an onomastic account. Moscow's book is filled with illustrations, all appropriate, but the text is sparse and does not account for numbered streets and possibly other places. The book on Manhattan still has to be done.

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*Scotland's Place-Names*. By David Dorward. Edinburgh: William Blackwood, 32 Thistle Street, Edinburgh EH2 1HA, Scotland, 1979. Pages xiv, 61. Illustrated. Price £1.25.

After the popularizing account of *Scottish Surnames* (reviewed by Elsdon C. Smith in *Names* 26, 1978, p. 293), David Dorward has now published, in the same series, a slim volume dealing with *Scotland's Place-Names*. Arranged alphabetically, this new publication offers brief summaries of the ways in which some of the most common and intriguing "elements"—from *aber* to *wick*—are used in the place names of Scotland. Both generics and specifics are included although most of the entries belong to the former category. Linguistic ascription, meaning, and actual examples of usage are given, but no sources are provided. As in his first volume, Mr. Dorward writes readably and attractively, and if one wishes to be both entertained and instructed in an unambitious manner, this is a work to be perused. It is certainly reliable in so far as the author has clearly made use of the best commentaries available.

This does not mean that we subscribe to the view, expressed in the introductory paragraph to his reading list (p. 53), that only this kind of approach will appeal to the non-specialist who is said to be "repelled" by more scholarly and more densely argued publications on the subject. Quite the contrary, as sales figures would confirm, many modern "non-specialists" tend to be much more sophisticated, much better informed and much more demanding than is frequently assumed by both writers and publishers alike. Fortunately, however, the range of interest in names is such that there is room for many different kinds of presentations, and David Dorward's book should certainly

have an appeal of its own, even if it does not attempt to say anything new. The volume is wittily illustrated by John Mackay.

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*Township Atlas of the United States.* Compiled and Edited by John L. Andriot. McLean, Va.: Andriot Associates, Box 195, McLean, Virginia 22101, 1979. Pp. xxxix, 1184. Price \$75.00

An atlas is not a book about the origin and meaning of names. But here is a very comprehensive and complete atlas of the United States with lists of populated places and minor civil divisions, and as such will be a most important research tool for the serious student of the place names of our country.

A brief introduction includes maps and explanations of the Census County Divisions, Urbanized Areas, and Public Land Surveys. Three indexes are included. The most important covers the 43,880 Minor Civil Divisions as well as the 3097 counties. The Populated Places Index, arranged by state, covers 21,415 incorporated places and unincorporated places of 1000 population or more. The Urbanized Areas Index covers more than 4,000 names of populated places located on the 275 urbanized area maps.

An authoritative opinion as to the accuracy of this atlas cannot be provided by this reviewer, but a careful examination of parts of the country with which he is most familiar does not disclose errors. To many of our members this big work will be most welcome help.

Elsdon C. Smith

*Studies on Middle English Nicknames I Compounds.* By Jan Jönsjö. Lund: CWK Gleerup, Lund, Sweden, 1979. Pp. 227.

This is a doctoral dissertation offered to the Lund University, Department of English. Research was done covering the period AD 1100–1400 in documents concerning the six northern counties of England and Lincolnshire.

Mr. Jönsjö gives his attention to compound names, that is names composed of two or more elements, and, in his introduction, discusses the various kinds in some detail. After the list of Middle English nicknames he includes a most valuable list of elements with origin, meaning, and examples of names so constructed.

Any scholarly writer on English nicknames must define carefully what he means by nicknames. A general definition is merely “an additional name.” The author here recognizes that nicknames embrace a number of categories. One group contains names

which describe a man's appearance and looks either in anatomy or dress. Another refers to a person's character and mentality, while a third may, even in a roundabout way, denote occupation. Some odd nicknames do not fit any of these categories. Mr. Jönsjö discusses these categories in some detail giving copious examples. The author does not include pet or diminutive forms in his groups.

The principal part of this work is the list of Middle English Nicknames found by the author in medieval English records. He has listed them in alphabetical order with reference to the source, that is the document where the name was found, and includes various spellings. This is followed by the medieval word or words composing the name identified by language and then, clearly in English, the exact meaning. The writer reminds us that the language of the Middle Ages was much closer to Old English, Old Norse, and Old French than to Modern English. The meaning of the nicknames that arose in medieval times are often most difficult to deduce from the meaning of the words which make up the nicknames.

Meaning in many cases presents a real problem that cannot always be determined. Of course many names like Blakberd, Langshank, and Croefot are straight and simple and there is no underlying meaning or connotation. But often, Mr. Jönsjö points out, the name may have a hidden meaning. Barfot might be one who walks bare-footed, but it could refer to a destitute man, or a friar, or pilgrim, or one doing penance. Fairfax has fine hair but could it contain a reference to color or shape? Parts of the human body frequently appear as name elements in a transferred sense. Some names that we casually label as names of occupation are really nicknames and tell something about the bearer other than his occupation. Indeed, the problem of meaning is an endless one, and definite results are in most cases just impossible to determine.

In his article about such names as Shakeshaft, Shakestaf, Waggespere, Waggstaffe the author indicates, after a brief explanation, that they may "also have an obscene connotation," and after several of them he refers to other names such as Schaksper. But in the article on Schaksper he makes no reference to any "obscene connotation."

Inheritance and transfer of nicknames is discussed. Nicknames are often transferred to a wife or child without becoming a fixed surname or family name, although many descriptive nicknames did become fixed family names still in use today, even many first applied to women. Women performed the same kind of work as men, even the hard work of smiths, miners, etc., and so received nicknames not unlike those applied to men.

This work will be welcomed by all serious students of English nomenclature. It is on the same high authoritative plane as the six other studies in English onomastics written by our Swedish friends and published by the Lund Studies in English.

Elsdon C. Smith

*Danske Personnavne. Gads Fagleksikon (ser.).* By Rikard Hornby. Kobenhavn (Copenhagen): G.E.C. Gad, 1978. Pp. 224. Price 65 Danish kroner.

One comes away from reading this book with a better than beginner's grasp of all that went into the making of Danish personal names. The author, a seasoned scholar

and specialist, seldom leaves a non-Danish reader adrift. His historical treatment is systematic without being dull, and succeeds in illuminating the nature and position of Danish personal names in a Western and even in a world context.

2,278 different masculine and 453 different feminine first names have been recorded among the Danes from the Middle Ages onward (see p. 48). Among these Hornsby reckons 55% of the masculine and 46% of the feminine as Scandinavian, 25% of the masculine and 32 of the feminine as German (predominantly Low German), and 9% of both masculine and feminine as Frisian. As to German names (pp. 62–63), swept in by waves of nobles and religious, of merchants and craftsmen, especially from Hanse towns, individual forenames and forename variants are located socio-onomastically and regionally. Frisian first names (p. 63) are primarily South Jutland (= Schleswig/Slesvig) loan names, both north and south of today's frontier. (It was not until 1864 that North Friesland was separated from Denmark, theretofore its host nation.)

In Denmark there are more than 50,000 family names in use, yet owing to the triumph of Danish government surname-fixing policy in the last century, the eighteen most frequent, all *-sen* names, account for half the population. (See pp. 78–79.) Of these only one, *Olsen*, the tenth most frequent, begins with a Scandinavian name stem (p. 120). The next such, number 20 in frequency, is *Knudsen*. On p. 21 we learn, from the saga itself, that the name "*Knut*" should call the word *knot* to mind, for the name arose as the result of a naked foundling having been wrapped in a bundle held (or "knotted") together by three golden rings.

Number 2 in frequency is *Nielsen*. It is commonplace for Danish and Norwegian *Nielsens*, and Swedish *Nils(s)ons*, to modify their names to *Ne(i)lson* in America. "Scando-American" *Nielsen/Nils(s)on*, however, has Greek *Nikólaos* as its base, unlike "Anglo-American" *Ne(i)lson* with Gaelic *Néill*. Danish *Niels*/East Danish *Nils* is recorded as early as the fourteenth century (pp. 57, 119). The short form of *Nicholas* contained in "Dutch American" *Santa Claus* (cf. Dutch *Sinterklaas*) is misidentified as *Claus* (see p. 99), if *Claas* be deemed a separate variant. Hudson River Valley/Jersey Dutch pronunciation was an important factor in engendering the *au*-spelling of the loan name.

Some interesting things happen to loan names in Danish. *Axel* is a derivative of *Absalon* (Hebrew *Abshalom*) via fourteenth-century *Axzlen* (p. 53). Latin *Severinus*, which lives on as the surname *Frings* in Cologne, has become the forename *Søren* (p. 126) in Copenhagen. Then there is *Lars*, which in the idiomatic expression *Dovenlars* (p. 77) is literally a 'Lazy Larry.' *Valdemar* the Great (1131–1182) was named after his maternal grandfather, Ukrainian Grand Duke *Vladimir* (pp. 27, 129–130) of Galicia. Another Slavic name was borne by Princess *Drahomír* of Bohemia, who for seven years (1205–1212) reigned as Denmark's beloved Queen *Dagmar* (pp. 45, 46, 138). *Preben* is a popular Danish boy's name. Its full form in *Predbjørn* (pp. 65, 121, 191), already de-Slavicized from *Prübor* in the fourteenth century. It is associated with a family of Baltic Slav nobles of the House of "Podbusk" (*Puibus*) from Rügen.

There is nothing "noble" about the name the world associates with the *Nobel* Prizes. It is a shortened form of the place name *Kristianopel* in Blekinge (ceded by Denmark to Sweden in 1658) (p. 82). Contrariwise, *Treschow*, which looks deceptively like another Low German spelled Mecklenburg-Pomerania-type Slavic *-ow* loan name, is actually a metonym for a maker of wooden shoes, "tree shoes" (p. 80). And, unsuspectedly, an Anglo-Saxon saint (*Botulf*) has a *namesake* in the North Jutland surname *Bodelsen* (pp. 59, 97).



From *det såkaldte Danelagen* (the so-called Danelaw), coming with mintmasters working in Denmark, are some names like *Saegrim*, otherwise unknown (pp. 33–34). They are missing from the glossary of boys' names (pp. 91–133). Shown there in bold type, e.g., and thus sanctioned by the Church Ministry, is *Venzel* which is not a Slavic but a (High) German diminutive of “*Wenceslaw*.” On p. 104 *Frank Sinatra* exemplifies *Frank*, without the necessary connection being made with *Francis/Frands*. In the glossary of old non-*sen* last names (pp. 157–176), where, e.g., twenty-five are derived from names of places in Finland, *Francke* could be ‘Frank, Franconian.’ And kinship forenames (*Broder, Fedder, Sønne, Sønke, Søster*) are in need of less uneven treatment, as a whole and individually (pp. 30, 47, 63, 98, 126, 152), as “Frisián,” “Scandinavian,” or both, with an eye to Frisian-Danish contact in South Jutland.

Geart B. Droege

*Abyssinia to Zimbabwe: A Guide to the Political Units of Africa in the Period 1947–1978.* By Eugene C. Kirchherr. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University, Center for International Studies, Papers in International Studies, Africa Series No. 25. 1979. Pp. vii and 80, maps, bibliography. Paper cover.

No region can match Africa for frequent and numerous changes in the names of its political units over the past three decades. Few of us can keep pace with the revolving door naming and renaming as colonies achieve independence, as governments are overthrown, as countries merge under federation, and as federations dissolve. Where is the People's Republic of Benin? Whatever happened to Dahomey or Spanish Sahara? And what about Biafra? Does the U.A.R. still exist? What is Transkei? Standard references—atlasses, encyclopedias, gazetteers—are of little help. They seldom provide alternatives, legal names, or those that are obsolete, and they are invariably out-of-date.

In *Abyssinia to Zimbabwe*, however, Professor Kirchherr produces order from chaos. The volume is essentially a gazetteer of Africa's political units—colonies, countries, provinces, etc.—since 1947, when the era of modern name changes really began.

More than two hundred names are listed, alphabetically. Principal entries are under the current names, while cross-references provide alternative and obsolete names. Thus listings for the obsolete Nyasaland, and for the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, will lead to the current Malawi. Emphasis is upon the English form of the names, although a few non-English (especially French) names are included where they are in frequent use in English publications.

Comments on each name include dates of usage, changes, and occasionally origins. Supplementary notes clarify a number of problem cases, such as northwestern Africa, off-shore islands (such as Madagascar or Comoro Islands) and the secessionist states. Fourteen maps detail critical boundary and territorial changes.

A particularly accurate and painstaking compilation, *Abyssinia to Zimbabwe* is

an essential tool for reference librarians, newsmen, editors, Africanists, and others faced with the bewildering maze of changing African names.

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*Indian Villages and Place Names in Pennsylvania.* By George P. Donehoo. Harrisburg, Pa.: The Telegraph Press, 1928. Pp. xiv + 290. Reprinted by Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, 1977. Available from S. Hamill Horne, 1436 Rose Glen Rd., Gladwyne, Pa. 19035. Price, \$12.50. Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax; by mail add \$1.00.

Reprints of valuable books remind of a once-enjoyed keepsake turning up from a corner not often searched or swept or from the traditional dusty attic. Its former need having been met, consummated, and then tossed away and forgotten by its owner, the uncovering, finding, makes it the more valuable for its having survived and now coming back with only good memories; and because of aging it has accrued a new appreciation, this time intellectual, perhaps even mental. Such is the case with *Indian Villages*.

First, the availability of the glossary and its documentation will be of inestimable help to the one who directs the place-name survey of Pennsylvania. Donehoo "attempted to find every Indian place in the entire state," and, in addition, consulted "every available source of information for the place names of this state [Pennsylvania], . . ." The entries are documented and keyed to a general bibliography.

Second, the worth of the glossary must be found in the entries, their relevance to onomastics and other disciplines, in particular here to history but also to Indian studies, anthropology, and folklore. Donehoo stated that "the work is intended for the use of more critical students of the Indian history of Pennsylvania," which means that the onomastic content was not considered, a matter that the author did not find necessary, or know about, because such a discipline had no separate entity as a field of scholarly endeavor at the time. Subsuming place names under the study of history, rather than, say, geography, led, it was believed, to a better understanding of events as detailed in chronology where time and action were more important than was place. The study of place names was more compatible with a study of history and is still combined often with settlement history, as witnessed by the cataloguing of place-name studies in the history section of the Library of Congress, or, more apt, the theme of the coming International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, "Personal- and Place-Names in Settlement History." Donehoo felt, rightfully so at that time, that he was writing a historical document, and the glossary reflects this.

Notwithstanding my caveat, the glossary provides onomastic material markedly beyond the curious, perhaps in this case a lagniappe for the taste buds for one concerned more with the name as place rather than as a point in time. Donehoo had a glimmering of this problem, that of treating name as name, when he stated that it "would not be possible to give within the limits fixed, a full history of each place and at the same time cover all the Indian place names in the State." So, in every sense, the commentary on

each entry becomes a footnote and not an onomastic event. This, however, implies that onomastics has a method, a *modus operandi*, which it does not. Anyone who attempts a place-name study in the United States inevitably becomes involved in the historical instinct, a gut reaction to personalities, dates, anecdotes. Perhaps, indeed, the anecdotal approach exfoliates all aspects of a place name. Instances need not detain us long here, but Perry County, found in many states can serve, for the historical content is clear enough, for the personality, the time, the event, and the action can be documented. The place is another matter. Involved in addition should be spatial limitations, reason for naming (patriotism, politics, cantankerousness, chauvinism, madness), pronunciation (different for different dialects), and synchronic meanings. The historical connotations attribute to the place name. No doubt, further considerations need to be taken into account, but they should point to the name, not detract from it. The historical view only is a straitjacket that must be loosened.

Stepping off the soap box, I must admit that the entries have a flexibility not often found in such glossaries. Partially, amount of printing space allowed for the entries made it possible for full, sometimes rambling, glosses which account for a recapitulation of all the historical material in the sources, along with personal reminiscences of the author's hikes along pathways in the areas. A publisher probably would not allow so much space now. With each entry will be found the location, the "meaning" of the name, and sometimes alternate renderings of the name, and the historical background, well documented. Anyone familiar with the characteristics of place names can spot translations, and in general these are so noted. Slippery Rock, Standing Rock, Young Woman's Creek, Bald Eagle Creek, Wolf Creek, Shadow of Death, Big Island, Brokenstraw Creek, Calumet, and the like, illustrate the phenomenon. Folk materials can be found under the glosses of Allaquippa, Kishacoquillas, Murdering Town, Pittsburgh (for the origin of Three Rivers, "*Trois Rivières*"), Punxsutawney ("town of sand flies," but no reference to the groundhog and its shadow), Shades of Death, and possibly Wheeling Creek.

Other Indian names may be found in Pennsylvania and glossed in later works on the place names of the State, but Donehoo has provided the background of the major ones and has furnished ample primary sources for future research. Until then, this volume is a welcome addition to studies that can be used in place-name studies and surveys, once the purely historical narratives within the glosses are relegated to the purely historical in contrast to the purely onomastic, for the evidence on Pennsylvania Indian names cannot be found elsewhere in one volume. It is a good book to have around.

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#### GALE RESEARCH ORIGINALS AND REPRINTS: XXIV

This survey of publications by Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, is the twenty-fourth in the series of notices giving prominence to books of interest to readers of *Names*. Titles and bibliographical information follow:

- Brewer, Annie M., ed. *Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and Other Word-Related Words*, 2nd ed., 2 vols. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979. Pp. xlii + 1,335. Price \$112/set.
- Crowley, E. T., ed. *New Acronyms, Initialisms, Abbreviations 1979* (Vol. 2 of *Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations*, 6th ed.). Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979. Pp. xvi + 115. Price \$45.00 (includes 1980 supplement).
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Trade Names Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 2 vols. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979. Pp. xxx + 907. Price \$85.00/set.
- Gale Genealogy & Local History Series*, vols. 6, 7, 9. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979. Vol. 6, pp. xvii + 215; 7, pp. xxiv + 279; 9, xxiv + 166. \$24.00 each.
- Herbert, Miranda C. and Barbara McNeil, eds. *Biographical Dictionaries Master Index*, 1st suppl. Pp. 638. Softbound. Price \$27.00.

The refreshing habit of the editors at Gale Research Company to recapitulate all material that has appeared in previous editions can be not only a shelf-saving wonder for librarians but also a boon to researchers who hold appreciations for efficiency in such matters, despite misgivings about other species of systematic quantitiveness. A case in point is the two-volume second edition of *Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and Other Word-Related Books* which includes all the reproductions of the Library of Congress cards from the first edition (1966–1974) and the additional ones from 1975 to 1978. The introduction states that all are included to the present time (1979), but I could find nothing later than 1978, although my examination was spotty, except for particular areas, that is, entries for dictionaries of names. The two volumes amply cover just about all books available that are concerned with “words or names: dictionaries, encyclopedias, concordances, ABC’s, word books, glossaries, vocabularies, topical indexes, lexicons, gazetteers, and thesauri.” The cards reproduced here have been abstracted from the LC Catalog and have been arranged hierarchically by LC classification which is found in the lower left-hand corner of the card.” This can and does cause some difficulty in using the volumes, but persistence will or should prevail. “Onomastics” does not have a separate heading and will have to be found under broad headings. American dictionaries of place names will be found under *U.S. History*. Personal names appear under *Genealogy*. Volume 1 consists of English and polyglot books, while 2 lists non-English ones. Those who fancy fantasy might note *Dragons, Unicorns and Other Magical Beasts* (PZ8.P18Dr3), while Miltonists and other worriers may find listed the *Dictionary of Angels*, including the Fallen Angels (BL477.D3).

The first supplement of *Biographical Dictionaries* is just that, a supplement. It lists approximately 235,000 additional citations and biographical sources to the 800,000 indexed in the four-volume *Biographical Dictionaries Master Index* (1975–76). Random comparison of the two, however, indicates that a substantial amount of overlapping occurs. This can hardly be avoided when someone already listed in the *Index* appears in the new sources indexed in Supplement. Notably, citations were taken from *Something about the Author*, *Who’s Who in the Theatre* (16th ed.), *Complete Encyclopedia of Popular Music and Jazz, 1900–1950*, *Who’s Who of American Women* (10th ed.), and *Who’s Who among Black Americans* (2nd ed.). All names were extracted, which brings up another matter, problem or not. The *Supplement* contains names of both living and deceased persons, whereas the *Index* emphasized only living persons prominent in the United States or Canada. The *Second Supplement* will contain another 235,000, making a total of 1,270,000 biographical sketches available from

approximately 100 sources. No reason is given for the goal, except that perhaps this will be the number of all names extracted from the sources.

The new edition of *Trade Names Dictionary* includes all in the previous edition, plus several thousand more, along with about 8,000 changes, making a total of approximately 130,000 entries. This number obviously does not include all trade names, but, outside of x-rated ones, the listing is probably as exhaustive as will ever be done, although future editions will continue to keep these listed and add new ones. As with the biographical dictionary listings, Gale editors have drawn from sources, all listed in the front matter, along with the publisher's address and the price of the particular source. For instance, the *Beverage Industry Annual Manual* is published by Magazines for Industry, Inc., 777 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017, price \$25.00; *Pickle Packers International Directory of the Pickle Industry* is published by Pickle Packers International, Box 31, St. Charles, IL 60174, and is distributed only to members; or *Knitting Times Yearbook* is published by National Knitted Outerwear Association, 51 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010, \$20.00 subscription price. Sixty-two such sources are listed, with all trade marks extracted from each one. In the Preface, the question of how to define a trade name is broached, with no positive conclusion reached. It is more than an identifying tag, for it accrues to itself many possibilities and even actions, some of them legal. This is not the place, however, to go into the ramifications of a phenomenon that has just begun to attract scholarly investigation, both cultural and linguistic, which may be in a sense the same thing.

*New Acronyms* adds 13,000 terms to the 178,949 listed in the 6th Edition of *Acronyms, Initialisms and Abbreviations*, with such new ones as *TIME* (Three Mile Island), *CAFE* (Corporate Average Fuel Economy), *CAT* (Conventional Arms Transfer), *POSSLQ* (Persons of Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters), *ANS* (Agencia Noticiosa Saporiti, Argentina press agency), and *QBSP* (Que Besa Sus Pies; Spanish, "Kissing Your Feet"). *CZECH*, abbreviation for Czechoslovakia, makes the sublime somewhat ridiculous, but it is attested and duly entered. Perhaps, on the other hand, *DOG* (*Dictionary of Opportunities for Graduates*) is currently apt and relevant. Many of the terms were developed in rapidly changing fields, such as science, data processing, social welfare, and popular causes, reflecting current trends and events. Not all the terms are recent, for *GOW* (Grand Old Women) was in use in the 19th century in reference to the venerable and imperialistic Queen Victoria.

The *Gale Genealogy and Local History Series* continues to supply vital information to those primarily interested in genealogy, but both onomastic and historical uses can be made of the three noted here. Volume 6, edited by J. Carlyle Parker, is titled *City, County, Town, and Township Index to the 1850 Federal Census Schedules*, an indispensable item for checking names on the census rolls for that year because it indexes the National Archives microfilm by reel and order numbers and also the call numbers for the reels used by the Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Volume 7, also edited by J. Carlyle Parker, is *An Index to the Biographies in 19th Century California County Histories*, which includes the names of biographies that appeared in 47 of California's 58 counties. Volume 9, *Index to Genealogical Periodical Literature, 1960-77*, edited by K.P. Sperry, is another indispensable item for the serious genealogist because it is primarily a bibliography of the available sources in each state. The author and title index covers 77 pages of entries, all keyed to the abbreviations for the periodical or book. Many references are made to naming practices and others matters of interest to onomatologists.

This set from Gale Research contains much raw material for those interested in names. The volumes on trade names and acronyms need to be analyzed from many points of view, linguistic, cultural, sociological, and definitely psychological. Little has been accomplished in this rich vein of onomastic material. Other volumes have limited interest, although the biographical index contains a hoard of material relevant to those working in the incidence of names. Again, the editors of Gale Research deserve praise for making available data that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Although the books are generally beyond the means of most scholars, they do need to be available in libraries everywhere.

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