

Book Reviews

Nya namnregler: Betänkande av namnutredningen. Statens offentliga utredningar 1979:25, Justitiedepartementet. Stockholm, 1979. 278 pp. English summary, pp. 15-18.

Acquisition, retention, and change of personal name in Sweden are regulated by the "Name Law," which went into effect at the beginning of 1964. *Nya namnregler* is the report of a commission appointed in 1973 to consider the need for a revision of the Name Law and to make recommendations for such revisions as seem desirable. The text of the report, after a parallel presentation of the present law and the revised wording recommended, includes a full discussion of the present law, reasons for the recommended revisions, a prognosis of the expected consequences of the revisions, and a statement of the changes in administrative practice the revisions will require. One appendix gives the results of an inquiry by questionnaire conducted by the Institute of Sociology, Uppsala University, designed to elicit the opinions of a sample of the Swedish population concerning the use of family names. This inquiry was intended to determine the probable public acceptance of the changes to be proposed.

The Department of Justice, which administers the Name Law through a Name Bureau within the Patent and Registration Office, was moved to commission this report by experience with the present law, by legislation adopted since it went into effect, especially the abolition of all legal distinctions between children born in and out of wedlock, and by a general social movement toward complete equality of the sexes. Moreover, in 1968 identifying "personal numbers" for individual citizens were introduced in Sweden: ten-digit numbers that encode certain information about their bearers. These numbers, in a bureaucracy well supplied with computers, are more efficient than names as a means of identifying persons, so that the state's interest in stability of names is diminished from what it was when persons had to be identified exclusively by their names. It is therefore practicable to permit changes of name to be made more readily than formerly; the proposed law will allow most such changes to be made at the local parish office, the traditional public registry in Sweden. Fewer than at present will require application to the Name Bureau, and still fewer an appeal to administrative courts.

Obviously only a few provisions of the law can be mentioned in this review. Both the present Name Law and the proposed revision of it are concerned primarily with family names. Both provide for the acquisition of family names by children when they are born or adopted; for retention or change of name by spouses at their marriage, and on the dissolution of marriage by divorce or death; and for changes of name in other circumstances. In the revision, the present assumption that on marriage the wife automatically acquires her husband's family name is abandoned; instead, the revision proposes that the assumption be made that each spouse retains the name he or she used before marriage. At the time of marriage spouses may stipulate whether they will

retain the names they used before, or will assume the same name, that of either the husband or the wife. With reference to the names of children, it is proposed that the present assumption, that a child born in marriage automatically acquires the name of its father, be abandoned. Instead, the child will acquire the name reported at the parish office, which may be that of both parents if they use the same name, or that of either the father or the mother. One restriction is imposed: a child may not be registered under a name acquired by either parent in a previous marriage, but must have a name used by either parent before marriage. This provision maintains the place of a child in the lineage of either its father or its mother, rather than permitting its assignment to a lineage with which it has no biological kinship. If no family name is reported for a child within six months of its birth, it is assigned the name of its mother; but if the paternity of a child born out of wedlock is established, it may be registered with the family name of its father.

The proposed revision allows a child to choose between the family names of its parents. It forbids, however, the assumption of a combination of their names, joined by a hyphen. Such double names occur in Sweden, as elsewhere, but no new ones are to be coined. In their place the revision provides for a novelty in Swedish anthroponymy: a "middle name" preceding the inherited family name. Such a middle name is, however, to be a strictly personal attribute of its bearer, not to be inherited.

The commission avoided any provision concerning family names of cohabiting unmarried couples, although in the past such couples have applied for changes of name that would give both partners the same name. Applications for a change of name of one partner in such couples to that of the other have been granted by the Name Bureau in exceptional cases. The commission leaves that possibility open.

In view of the relaxation of regulations concerning family names proposed in the report, it is of interest that, according to the inquiry made into the views of Swedish citizens, most of them are content with the traditional practice whereby in marriage the wife acquires the family name of her husband, and a child born in marriage acquires its father's family name. If the proposed revision becomes law, the great majority of Swedes will apparently follow the established practice, while those—a minority—who prefer freer forms of naming will encounter fewer bureaucratic obstacles than they have in the past.

John Leighly

Studien zur Namengebung in Nordfriesland. Die Bökingharde 1760-1970. Submitted as diss. Kiel. (Nordfriisk Instituut) Studien und Materialien, Nr. 12. By Christian Andersen. Bräist/Bredstedt, NF (North Friesland, West Germany): Nordfriisk Instituut, 1977. pp. xxi, map, 311. Price DM 12,50.

This is more of a study than studies of namegiving in the stronghold core area of North Frisian on the mainland, called the *Bökingharde* in German and the *Böökinghiird* in the local Frisian. It lies within the northern or Schleswig/Slesvig half of the West German *Land* of Schleswig-Holstein. It is an area of forenames in contact:

Frisian, Low German, Danish and High German. Baptismal records of eight congregations, plus a secular source for *Lindholm/Loonham* (dated ca. 1940), furnish the material for Andersen's eight periods: 1760-64, 1790-94, 1820-24, 1850-54, 1880-84, 1910-14, 1940-44, and 1969-73 (pp. 27-29).

For every period, first boys' and then girls' names are listed alphabetically with the number of baptized with each name given. A "namegiving quotient" is derived by dividing all boys' or girls' names by the number of different names, including (in addition to *Erstnamen* or first names proper) middle names (*Zweitnamen*), second members of hyphenated "first name" pairs, and tertiary middle names. All these are put into the same name pool for percentages of usually the ten most popular masculine and feminine names of a period.

Ten graphs (pp. 306-311) provide a means of taking in, at a glance, important findings of Andersen's research here. His four graphs on pp. 308-309 give a vivid diachronic picture of the ebb and flow of the proportionate representation, among the whole body of names, of boys' and girls' names that are High German, Low German-Frisian-Scandinavian, and Low German, Frisian and Scandinavian. We must not take exception to Andersen, acting on his need to assign names to one category or another, deciding in one instance in favor of Frisian and the next in favor of Low German, in the case of forenames that cannot with certainty be said to be anything but both (pp. 211-212): masc. *Boy* (local Fris. *Bui*, *Boi*, *Booie*) and fem. *Frauke* are thus reckoned as Frisian (pp. 212, 255), masc. "*Gehrt*" (pp. 44, 259) and fem. *Wiebke* (local Fris. *Wiibe*, *Wiibke*) (p. 289) as Low German (p. 213).

In today's world the Frisian-Low German-Danish components in combination are strong enough to define the *Böökinghiird* as part of a German anthroponymic province with regional characteristics of its own. Andersen believes that that name province is greater than North Friesland and has existed at least since the end of the nineteenth century. He equates it with German culturally dominated South Schleswig and then, paradoxically, proceeds to name its common denominator as "special ties to Scandinavia," all of which has yet to be statistically verified. (See p. 248.) The seeming absence of the Frisian component in extensive nineteenth-century north Angeln forename data (pp. 233-234), leads me to think more in terms of a western, sub-South Schleswig North Sea name province of which North Friesland is a part.

Back in the eighteenth century North Friesland was still an anthroponymic realm in its own right, one made up of three self-contained provinces (pp. 248, 225-233). In 1790-94, 19% of the boys of Andersen's study and 14.2% of the girls had Frisian names, and 27.7% of the boys' and 36.6% of the girls' names were Frisian; a decade before the end of Danish rule, in 1850-54, these figures had dwindled to, resp., 9, 4.8, 14.7, and 14.6% (p. 213). An old kinshipbound system of namegiving, a force against outside name fads and for the preservation of the system, collapsed in this century (p. 157). Now and in the future, we are told (p. 249), old Frisian names lost can only make a comeback riding the crest of a "fad wave" (*Modewelle*). But then such names, with all constituent parts of North Friesland open and receptive to one another, will somewhere be newcomers like *Uwe* (local Fris. *Uuwe*, *Oowe*) in the *Böökinghiird* of 1940-44, when twenty-one boys were given this name, putting it in fourth place at 3.7% (pp. 116-117). By 1969-73 *Uwe* was down to four boys at .52% (p. 131).

Andersen does a good job with special sections on changing conditions of geography and economics (pp. 8-20). They go far to help explain how the *Böökinghiird* gradually became an appendage of and within German namegiving. So do his sections

on motivations for namegiving (pp. 150-174). The book offers *Exkurse* into family-name acquisition, and the surname as second baptismal name (pp. 61-63), and into last-name-like nicknames in Niebüll-Deezbüll/Naibel-Deesbel (pp. 111-114), drawn from an unpublished study of Volkert Carstensen. Andersen's attempt to find a correlation between namegiving and social class is interesting (pp. 175-206). All in all, a fine work. On pp. 218-219 I was somewhat taken aback by the category "*English (Celtic) Names*" being followed by that of "*Non-Germanic Names (Foreign Names)*." Spelling *Kevin* English, e.g., does not make it a Germanic name.

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Thomas Pyles: Selected Essays on English Usage. Ed. by John Algeo. Gainesville, Fla.: University Presses of Florida, 1979. Pp. xiv + 223. Price \$18.00.

John Algeo has performed his usual quiet but scholarly service in bringing together the major articles and commentaries of Thomas Pyles, whose teaching and understanding the ways of language have changed the lives of many students and, when presented in written form, anyone who has an appreciation for style and intelligence, a combination not often found among the community of linguists, and seemingly never found among the journalists who popularize their own misunderstanding of "basics." Pyles is different, but this is not the place to praise him as a teacher-scholar.

Although Pyles has a close and abiding interest in onomastics, he is more concerned with names as part of the study of language; consequently, his articles on what we consider the purely onomastic are few, though provocative and, as one of my colleagues at a recent meeting claimed, downright sarcastic. The latter subjective interpretation from a linguist expressed overtones of respectful awe.

The onomastic articles reprinted here are "Dan Chaucer," "British Titles of Nobility in American English," "Onomastic Individualism in Oklahoma," and "Bible Belt Onomastics." The latter three have become classic, occasionally reprinted as examples of stupidity of parents in Southern areas of the United States, where it is said that the Christian Bible is always taken as the word. The samples, my own name being not one of the examples but probably narrowly missing, definitely show that the parental-bestowing of names on children moves in directions that can be classified as fruity. Nevertheless, "hapless infants" in other sections of the United States have received such names as the ones found by Pyles in his investigations of rural hypocorism in bible-belt areas of the South. As he notes himself, such horrifying tags of children can be found just about anywhere, especially if we remember the "religious" names inflicted on children in not only England but also in other parts of the world where, as has to occur, primitive mores exert total influence. Examples abound. Still, Pyles has made us aware that names have a sociological bias that may reflect caste, but not much. For instance, Jimmy Carter has the same value of Teddy—note the baby-talk—Kennedy, or Dick Nixon, or Ike, or any of the Jacks or Bobbies that proliferate in the United States. I suppose that Lyndon Johnson is a name that would

not fit the "bible-belt-onomastice" theory. Lady Bird would. That, of course, is a pet name, not a Pat.

So it is with all the whimsies that Pyles has placed before us. They have a patness that give us such as Pinky Bottom, Virgin Muse, and Fairy Guy, but anyone from Brooklyn or Seattle could come up with worthies like Holy Moses or Hung Lo. Take your section, you take a name. Linguistic fancy has no bounds in a democratic culture where naming is dictatorial.

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A Dictionary of British Surnames, 2nd ed. By P. H. Reaney, with corrections and additions by R. M. Wilson. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1980. pp. lxiv + 398. Price \$33.75.

A physical comparison of the first and second editions should perhaps suffice. The first edition contains 366 pages; the second, 398. The size of the second edition is slightly smaller than the first, and the binding is not as sturdy. Approximately 700 entries have been added, plus a few corrections to some of the entries in the first edition. Wilson, in a short preface, states that most of the additions and corrections had been prepared by Reaney. The additions are common names omitted from the first edition because of "considerations of space." The introduction and front matter remain essentially the same, except that some additions have been made to "Other Works Consulted," including one alphabetization change.

Superficially much the same, the two editions are substantively different. A sampling of the additions indicates that editorial decisions had been made for exclusion and inclusion, perhaps rather subjective ones, but such actions are the prerogative of editors, indecisive or not in their choices of what goes in and what is left out. It would be an informative exercise to list all the additions, but here I will, subjectively, choose a few to illustrate what took place. Since most of the additions had already been prepared by Reaney, anyone can make conjectures why they were excluded from the first edition. The same could be said about my choosing the following as examples (full entries are not given here):

Abercombie, dating from 1296; *Agnew*, from 1208-9, a nickname from Fr. *agneau*, *agnelle* 'lamb'; *Acton*, from 1194, one of the many places of this name; *Backshall*; *Caesar*, from 1185, a pageant name in Middle English, the modern name probably descending from Sir Julius Caesar (1558-1636), of Italian extraction—a member of this family was physician to Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth; *Fairbourn*; *Farley*; *Felton*; *Flambard*; *Forsyth*; *Holbrook*; *Holcombe*; *Ida*, from *id-* 'labour,' popular among Normans; *Ickeringill*, from 1379, a lost place in Skipton; *Ireland*, the man from Ireland; *Kellog*, 'kill-hog,' a butcher; *Kisser*, maker of cuisses, armour for the thighs; *Ladler*, from 1278, a maker of ladles; *Macartney*, from 1529, Irish, *Mac Cartaine*, 'son of art'; *Oakley*; *Odell*; *Ogilvie*; *Ogle*; *Oglethorpe*; *Orpin*; *Panckridge*; *Pannaman*, from 1301, 'a hawker who carries fish or othe provisions in a pannier,' but also 'a south-

eastern form of Pennyman'; *Parry*, from 1407, 'son of Harry'; *Raleigh*, from 1164; *Riley*, from 1284; *Ringrose*, from 1259; *Salt*, from 1199; *Saltern*; *Salthouse*; *Saltman*; *Saltmarsh*; *Salton*; *Saltonstall*; *Savil*, from 1246; *Selden*, from 1199; additions to entry, *Shakespeare*; *Shelley*, from 1201; *Shiple*, from 1219, 'dweller by the sheep pasture'; *Singleton*, from 1220; *Swinnerton*, from 1185; *Tarves*, *Tarvis*, from 1199, a maker or seller of a talevas, a weapon; *Teasdale*; *Tennyson*; *Townley*; *Toy*; *Trollop*, *Trollope*, from 1427, 'troll-valley'; *Twiceaday*, from 1485, 'almost certainly a popular perversion of Tuesday, for someone born on that day'; *Ughtred*, omitted as entry, but see *Oughtred* in both editions; *Vere*, from 1086; *Waddington*, from 1169, place name; *Walpole*, from 1198; *Wiles*; *Winchester*; *Yardley*, from 1199; *York*; and *Yorkshire*.

Safe to say, the second edition clearly supersedes the first. In some cases, obvious reasons for omission appear, such as the degree of nationality, the commonness of the name, place name or pure surname, nickname, or, as in the *Salt-* names, possibly a mistake. Above all, however, it is good to have the new edition. It is a pity that the other names in the extensive collection built by Reaney are not available in printed form. According to Wilson, the files are now in the Sheffield University Library.

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Place-Name Changes since 1900, A World Gazetteer. By Adrian Room. Metuchen, N.J. 08840: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 52 Liberty St., P.O. Box 656, 1979. 202 pp. Price \$10.00

Name changes occur for many reasons, almost as many as possibility can make account, for seemingly subjective reasons can be as varied as poetic ambiguity. Room has barely touched the surface, but bareness can reveal much. Names are changed usually through some act of violence, such as the conquering of a nation and old names are replaced by ones not at all relevant to the original ones; or a continent can be invaded by a racially different people who simply name without knowledge or regard for any names that might have been present; or former conquerors, now "civilized," may depart, allowing local heroes, despots, or politicians to change the names to whatever they wish at the moment; or a momentous event, such as a landing on the moon by humans, can trigger a set of changes to celebrate the event; or just about anything else.

Room states, "For many countries of the world, the first three-quarters of the 20th century have brought an era of change unparalleled in history." The most radical changes have taken place in Russia (and the satellites), China, and Africa. The changes in names reflect the turmoil, the turbulence, and the travail. The concern here, however, is the changes themselves. The period represented is "of the pre-1949 era." A dramatic, even traumatic, estimated 709,000 (rounded off) place-name changes have occurred in Russia since the 1917 Revolution. The general policy was to change all "religious, monarchical and ethnically undesirable names." Also, as political leaders fell from grace—if such a word can be applied in a Communist context—, places

names for them had to be changed immediately. Thousands of places named for Stalin had to be renamed when posthumously his policies and actions were revised. The name Lenin usually was substituted. Some places were not changed; for instance, a main thoroughfare in Lodz, Poland, is still named for Stalin.

Because of the conditions favoring changes, Russia and China names predominate the entries. Other countries underwent name-upheavals, such as Algeria, where French names reverted to Arabic ones, or were replaced. The Portuguese, German, Dutch, and English colonies in Africa experienced renamings when they became nations. Although Room does not mention changes in India, they have taken place. Benares has reverted to Varanasi, probably the major one, but local villages have become names reflecting the local language, which definitely is not English.

Some countries have had few name changes, Ireland being one that has had no change since 1900. England has relatively few, those mostly caused by the pushiness of real estate peddlers. Although Pissing Alley no longer exists, Maidenhead, "Swinehead, Ugley, Nasty, Foul Hole, Greedy Gut, and Boils" do and probably will.

Room's book must take its place as the beginning to a study of name changes. For geographical names, no other such gazetteer exists.

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The Anglo-Saxon Heritage in Middle English Personal Names, East Anglia 1100-1399
II. By Bo Seltén. Lund, Sweden: LiberLäromedel, POB 1205 S-221 05 Lund, Sweden, 1979. Pages 223.

This is the second part of Bo Seltén's research, the first part having been published in 1972 in *Lund Studies in English*, which contained sections dealing with the different categories of dithematic personal names, their usage and frequency, the meaning of the name elements, and the spelling and pronunciation of the names. The present volume is largely a name dictionary in which the Middle English forms are presented under Old English head-words arranged in alphabetical order. A representative selection is given from Norfolk and Suffolk and the different subperiods within the time span 1100-1399.

References are given to the standard works by von Feilitzen, Ekwall, Reaney, and Withycombe. A list of Old English compounds according to first elements and another according to second elements follows the etymological survey of the material. A valuable index of Middle English forms of personal names will be found on pages 195-211. A comprehensive bibliography occupies pages 213-221, which evidences the scholarly research by the author.

The important comments by Dr. Seltén prove this to be a most valuable study of Middle English personal names, a real aid for the serious student.

Elsdon C. Smith

Bogen om personnavne. By Georg Søndergaard. Copenhagen: Politikens Forlag, 1979. Pp. 337. Price Danish kroner 89,50.

Everybody has a name—and the *right* to have one—and as far back in history as there have been human beings, we have examples of their names.

In his recent book, Georg Søndergaard, a lecturer at the University of Odense, delves into the cultural history of our personal names, from the rune stones to the computer print-outs of today. It is rather a refreshing book to read; the author has successfully imparted his enthusiasm for the subject to his readers.—It is also a book that has been needed, bringing together under one hat a variety of materials and also giving the results (in part) of a questionnaire investigation on modern Danish naming practices, conducted by the author in 1975.

It was shown that only in about 50% of the cases, parents were able to specify the motive behind their choice. In 35.2% it was possible to refer to some “model” (a character in fiction, a famous personality, etc.). The practice of naming children after parents or grandparents is much less widespread today than 2 generations ago where the figure was as high as 60-70%—as opposed to approximately 20% now.

This book is well illustrated and carries a good amount of diagrams, name and topical indices, bibliography, a list of calendary names, and the complete list of accepted boys' and girls' names (amounting to about 5000 names).

Readable and recommendable.

Kristian Kristiansen