

Book Reviews

A CLASSIC REVISITED

The Origin of English Surnames. By P.H. Reaney. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul (9 Park Street, Boston 02108), 1967, published as paperback in 1980, Pp. xix, 415. \$7.95.

The Origin appeared between hard covers in 1967, shortly before the author died (January 17, 1968). Proving to be one of the more popular books ever published in the field of onomastics, it went through five impressions (1968, 1969, 1978, 1979) before being published as a paperback. Reviewed in *Names* (16:3 [1968], 305–307), the study was noted as “probably the best narrative treatment of English names that has been written and it may well be the best one for a long time to come.” Such evaluation seems to have stood the test of time, although twelve years may seem short for such testing. Yet, the busyness of toilers in the study of names, chance permitting, should have produced something comparable. W.F.H. Nicolaisen in *Scottish Place-Names* (London: B.T. Batsford Ltd., 1976) displayed the scholarly perspicacity and knowledge that certainly equals or maybe surpasses Reaney’s, but the scope of the work is narrow, as it was planned to be, while Reaney was more expansive, all-inclusive, and universal, despite limiting his work to English surnames.

The paperback publication is a page-by-page reprint of the hard cover edition. For merely substantive purposes, I will summarize the contents. The introductory section is just that, a statement of interest in names, reasons for studying them, misleading modern spellings, obsoletes, much discussed surnames, and classification, the latter important for an understanding of Reaney’s method. The weakest section may be that on spelling and pronunciation, for Reaney mentioned only those changes that are prominent in the English sound system. Other chapters include local surnames, foreign surnames, surnames of relationship, personal names, surnames of office and occupation, nicknames from various sources (physical characteristics, animals, coins, moral characteristics, birds, etc.), and oath names. The chapters on nicknames certainly provide more insight into this element than can be found anywhere. This republication of *The Origin* is, as was the hardcover original, a narrative version of Reaney’s *A Dictionary of British Surnames*, republished also recently (1976). It is good to have both these works available again, and especially the former in an attractive format and at a price affordable to anyone interested in the study of names.

Kelsie B. Harder

Potsdam College of Arts and Science, Potsdam, New York

Place Names in the Writings of William Butler Yeats. By James McGarry. Atlantic Highlands, N.J. 07716: Humanities Press, Inc., 1976. Pp. 99; inside cover maps; photographs. \$9.95.

The Irish, no less so than other nationals, take care of their names and make them a part of their living heritage and impart to them cultural significance. Writers (poets and fiction writers, in particular) usually structure their art through names, both place and personal, and do the same with them as nationals do. A land mass has to have a name before it exists, in a manner of speaking, of course. A person does not become The Person until a name is attached, equating here a sound and existence parallel, for names and numbers have the same significance when both become names. That names and numbers have certain equivalences as signifiers can be arguable, however. Indeed, the matter has not been investigated. Nor will it be here.

Eventually, the personal and place names used by writers are collected, fictions being ransacked before poetry, simply because the former seem to be more adaptable to onomastic investigation. I wonder! The methods of naming by, say, Dryden, Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Ginsburg deserve perhaps as much careful analysis as do Dickens, Faulkner, or Hardy. The text before us, recently received, does not fulfill critical needs, but it has its uses in Yeats studies, if no more than to call attention to the 350 or so place names that appear in the *Works*. The value is interpretive and functional in the frame of criticism that inevitably has to be applied to poems by Yeats, for he is the focus of attention.

The alphabetized glossary has shortcomings when onomastic expectations are applied. All names and locations, however, appear, but the entries have been pared to barebones. Folk material has been generally excised from most of the names where such information should prove beneficial for interpretation and insight. The compiler does supply sufficient hints and sometimes fairly complete accounts for those who need folk and mythological backgrounds. Among the entries that are developed into near-essays are *Sligo*, *Coole*, *Knocknarea*, *Kinsale*, *Knockefin*, *Cruachan*, and *Thomond*, among others. On the other hand, more could be said about *Hawk's Well*, *Faddle Alley*, *Clooth-na-Bare*, *Pairc-na-Carraig*, *Scalp*, *Valley of the Black Pig*, and *Innisfree*.

Meanings of names are usually given, although origins seem to be omitted too often. *Inisfail* is glossed as "the island of destiny, a poetic name for Ireland." *Toraigh*, "a place of towers," appears under *Tory Island*. Yeats must have been aware of the connotations of *Tory* when he used it instead of the Irish form in his *Autobiographies*. Anglicized spelling occurs in *Kinsale*, from *Cionn Tsaile*, "the head of the sea." Many such names appear: *Kilkenny* from *Cill Channaigh*; *Kilvarnet* from *Cill Bhearnais*; *Slieve League* from *Sliabh Liag*; *Derrybrien* from *Daire Bhriain*; and *Tyrone* from *Tir Eoghain*, "the territory of Eoghan."

McGarry says that it is probable that Yeats took down "local names from informants who would not have been certain of the spelling" and also missed local variations in both spelling and pronunciation, thus accounting for the inconsistencies in some of the entries. One of the strengths of the compilation is the listing and accounting for variants other than the one Yeats chose or merely used because no other was known to him. Writing and publishing in English, Yeats was forced to use English forms for names when such were available, but *Ess Ruadh*, *Finvara* (*Fidh an Mhara*), *Dundealgan*, and *Magh Ai* illustrate adherence to Irish roots by the poet.

Despite the few strictures noted above, the glossary is indispensable to the Yeats scholar—or reader. After all, the compiler wanted simply to supply an aid, a compendium, a guide, and perhaps an imagination teaser for those of us who often struggle with the Irishness of Yeats' poems and occult prose while meantime enjoying. A list of names can help.

Kelsie B. Harder

Potsdam College of Arts and Sciences, Potsdam, New York

Dialects in Culture: Essays in General Dialectology. By Raven I. McDavid, Jr. Edited by William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., with the assistance of James E. McMillan, Lee A. Pederson, Roger W. Shuy, and Gerald R. Udell. University, Ala.: The University of Alabama Press, 1979. Pp. xxv + 399. \$22.75.

The overlapping of membership of the American Name Society with that of the American Dialect Society did not occur by accident. In fact, as E.C. Ehrensperger can attest, the former is derivative from the latter; or, to use the common ancestral metaphor, the American Name Society is a child of the American Dialect Society. Those whose interests lay in the study of names formed ANS in 1951 as a direct outgrowth of the work of those interested in place names in the United States. The ADS had for many years a place-name committee, which Professor Ehrensperger chaired until the ANS took over the work of that committee a few years ago, with Professor Ehrensperger still responsible for accumulating a report on such work in the United States and reporting it to the members of ANS.

Among those who hold membership in both societies is Raven I. McDavid, Jr., long known for his perceptive and authoritative studies in dialect and in American language. Recently, as the pages of *Names* attest, he has been active in publishing material in onomastics. Still, in this set of collected essays, all published before 1970, the word *onomastics* or *onomatology* does not occur. This is as it should be. The two disciplines are separate, though related, just as onomastics is related to folklore, anthropology, history, and so on. The same, of course, is true of dialectology, for ways of speech obviously cross disciplines. The only articles that would qualify as pure onomastics—and a definition of such would justify the study of names—are “Linguistic Geography and Toponymic Research (1958),” published in *Names* (6 [1958], 65–73); “Word Magic: Or, Would You Want Your Daughters to Marry a Hoosier?” (1967); and “The Late Unpleasantness: Folk names for the Civil War” (1969). The first and third were written in collaboration with Virginia G. McDavid. The other 38 articles are concerned with dialect study and its manifestations. One of the items in the “Critical Dialectology” section is a review of Robert L. Ramsay, *The Place Names of Franklin County, Missouri*. The latter, however, is hardly more than a notice, seemingly out of place among the informed reviews surrounding it.

Besides his mastery of the theoretical principles and practical application of dialectology, McDavid is also a prosyletizer and a pedagogue, the two hardly separable. First, he wishes to convert us to a belief that the study of linguistic geography, or area

linguistics, has humanistic and interpretive as well as social and cultural value. Second, he wishes to teach us the methods to derive these values. Several pedagogical articles point up the aims: "Dialect Geography and Social Science Problems" (1946), "A Study in Ethnolinguistics" (1960), "Dialectology and the Teaching of Reading" (1964), "Dialectology and the Classroom Teacher" (1962), "Can Linguistics Solve the Composition Problem?" (1965), "Linguistic Geography and the Study of Folklore" (1958), and already noted, "Linguistic Geography and Toponymic Research."

Herein lies the importance of these essays for the study of names: the methodology. Those looking for mechanical procedures need search elsewhere; but for the general outlines and hints as to variations, McDavid is the starting point. Field workers in the projected place-name survey should be required to work through such essays as the one on toponymic research, those treating differences among area dialects and among social dialects, and those showing distribution of vocabulary and pronunciation, the latter being crucial. Generally, variations in pronunciations are not recorded by those dabbling in place-name lexicography, since their purpose seems to lie elsewhere, such as origin, history, and the like. Furthermore, publishers, cost cutters that they have to be, simply edit out pronunciations. This will not do in the place-name survey. Variations must be taken into account. Indeed, variations of pronunciation of a place name can and do occur within the community. Age, education, position, and no doubt other characteristics, will modify pronunciations, although a received or accepted one will need to be recorded along with the others. This may be more difficult than seems apparent at first blush, and further research is needed to find out why the pronunciation of a name is acceptable. This, however, takes us beyond the matter at hand.

Dialects and Culture reminds us again of the distinguished and still on-going achievement of Raven McDavid. Our thanks should go also to the editors and the University of Alabama Press who made the handsome volume available, one that should be at the working and research library of anyone studying names. Further, throughout the essays, the reader will be made aware of McDavid's unswerving devotion to scholarship and to its dignity in the context of human endeavor.

Kelsie B. Harder

Potsdam College of Arts and Sciences, Potsdam, New York

GALE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

This survey of recent publications by Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, serves as prominent notice of books of interest to readers of *Names*. Titles and bibliographical information appear below:

- Brown, Barbara W., and James M. Rose, *Black Roots in Southeastern Connecticut, 1650-1900*, vol. 8 in Gale Genealogy and Local History Series. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1980. Pp. xxvii + 722. \$26.
- Herbert, Miranda C., and Barbara McNeil, eds. *Biographical Dictionaries Master*

- Index: First Supplement.* Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979. Pp. 72 (includes *Second Supplement*, ready in 1980). Large format; paper.
- Montague-Smith, Patrick, ed. *Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage 1980.* London: Debrett's Peerage Ltd., 1979. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1980. Pp. 2,336. \$110.
- Sperry, Kip. *Index to Genealogical Periodical Literature, 1960–1977*, vol. 9 in Gale Genealogical and Local History Series. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979. Pp. xxix + 166. \$24.
- Wertsman, Vladimir, ed. *The Romanians in America and Canada: A Guide to Information Sources*, vol. 5 in Ethnic Studies Information Guide Series. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1980. Pp. xiv + 164. \$28.

An adequate assessment of the biographical dictionaries being published and supplemented by Gale Research would probably be easy if numbers of names were the only criterion of measurement. Arresting indeed is the projected number of 1,270,000 sketches that will be covered in *Biographical Dictionaries Master Index* (800,000), *First Supplement* (235,000), and yet-to-be-published *Second Supplement* (235,000). The *First Supplement* updates material included in the BDMI, but adds all names included in *Who's Who of American Women*, 10th Ed., and *Who's Who Among Black Americans*, 2nd Ed. A bibliographic key to publishing codes is included for the twenty-five sources for the listings. A warning is prominently mentioned: "Users should be careful in searching for some citations. An individual could have more than one listing if the source books differ in how that person's name or dates appear." The sources do differ; for instance, Gerald R. Ford (1913–) and Gerald R. Ford, Jr. (1913–) are obviously the same, although the sources list them in different ways. Here they are listed one after the other. Another example follows:

- Ebb, Fred 1932– *NotNAT* (*Notable Names in American Theatre*)
 Ebb, Fred 1933– *WhoThe 77* (*Who's Who in the Theatre*)
 Ebb, Fred 1935– *ConAu 69* (*Contemporary Authors*)

These volumes save much time for the harried researcher who is trying to find material on a person. If the name is not here, it is simply assumed that it is not sketched anywhere.

Another invaluable bibliography for biographical research is *Analytical Bibliography*, an index of some 50,000 biographic sketches of important persons to approximately 1933. The sources of information about the persons are listed in the "Book Bibliography" section, which is keyed by the names of the persons to whom the sources apply. In the main analytical index can be found the individual's name, birth and death dates, brief identifier (author, statesman, etc.), and the sources where information is available to beef out the analytical entry. Less useful is the "Chronological Index," a listing by century, from B.C. (a lumping of all who lived B.C.) to the 20th century. As suspected the 20th-century listing is sparse: Such persons as Aldous Huxley, Frank Lloyd Wright, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt had not achieved enough importance by 1930 to be noted. Still, the index is another of those almost indispensable library aids that Gale Research has been publishing in recent years.

Volumes 8 and 9 of Gale's Genealogy and Local History Series have importance for all who are involved in genealogical research, but they are also valuable for place-

name study of a specific area. Vol. 9, for instance, lists sources for material on Indian place names, Acadians, names of states and sources, cartographic collections, and the like. The list of periodicals, alphabetized, covers the ones consulted for the author and article index. Vol. 8, on the other hand, is a major work on surnames of Blacks who lived in a delineated area, chosen for a research model, from 1650 to 1900. Every scrap of information was gathered for each Black person, including both slaves and freed persons. The first section is an alphabetical list of surnames and the persons who carried the name, including place of habitation, sex, birth and death dates (when available), and family information. The names parallel ones mentioned in Murray Heller, *Black Names in America* (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1975), although here surnames are given prominence, with given names listed beneath the surname, which may or may not have been taken from an owner.

An alphabetized sampling reveals such surnames as Aaron, Abner, Absalom, Adams, Almy, Ambrose, Apes, Baker, Bemboo, Benjamin, Blackman, Blue, Coit, Cuff, Cuffee, Davis, Douglas, Earl, Evans, Fagins, Fayreweather, Fish, Freeman (129 listed), Gates, Geer, George, Green, Hall, Harris, Hercules, Ishmael, Jack, Job, Junco, Kadan, Kellogg, Kinsman, Koons, Lamb, Lazier, Lesure, Mather, Miner, Mingo, Mooch, Munroe, Nero, Nonesuch, Nooky, Orchard, Oxford, Pero, Peters, Plato, Prince, Quaco, Quash, Quy, Randall, Ransom, Rogers, Saltonstall, Scott, Shantup, Shelley, Smith, Snobo, Snow, Swan, Syphax, Taylor, Throop, Toad, True, Tyler, Uncas, Utley, Valentine, Wales, Wanton, Warner, Wheeler, Wilson, Wood, Wright, Yeppon, York, Young, and Zibbere. This list, seemingly long, contains only a few of the total, but they are typical ones, indicating that the surnames of Blacks did not differ significantly from those of whites. With the exceptions of Cuff, Cuffee, Junco, and Mingo, the others could just as well by names bestowed by owners or scribes.

The alphabetized list of Blacks who had no surnames, or no known ones, does not differ significantly from those given to whites, but the ones that *seem* out of tone with white given names are quickly noticeable. Again, a sampling, haphazardly chosen, gives an intimation of the names by which Blacks answered: Aaron, Abigail, Adam, Africa, Amos, Anne, Asher, Azubah, Zubah, Balthazar, Bathshedba, Elizabeth (and variations), Beulah, Boston, Bristol, Cade, Caesar, Caleb, Candace, Cate, Cato, Chloe, City, Corydon, Craps, Cudjo, Cuff, Cyrus, Delilah, Desire, Dido, Dinah, Doll, Dusk, Ebed, Eliakim, Esau, Flora, Foot, Fortune, Freeda, Guinea, Hannah, Hannibal, Hector, Hercules, Isaac, Ishmael, Jack (very popular), Jemima (one instance), Jane, Jephthah, Jeremiah, Job, Joel, John, Jonah, Juba, Jumbo, Juno, Jupiter, Lambo, Lasso, Lester, Lettice, Lucretia, Mary (very popular), Mingo, Moses, Nancy (very popular), Neptune, Nero, Oxford, Patience, Pharoah, Peter (very popular), Phebe, Phyllis, Pompey, Primus, Prudence, Quernes, Quonnemeso, Rose, Sabina, Sambo, Sarah, Saul, Scipio, Sharon (male), Shem, Solomon, Susan, Thank, Time, Titus, Venus, Vesta, Virgil, Wing, Zaccheus, Zaloro, Ziba, Zilpha, Zine, and Zipporah. Again, these appear often in Heller's lists. Also, the names appear among whites, with the exceptions of Africa, Cudjo, Jumbo, and Sambo.

Not only is *Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage* a beautiful piece of bookmaking, but it is also a commanding book of information about something that Americans know little about and probably understand less, except to get involved in following the changes in the majesties of England, about which we tearfully sentimentalize and hopelessly envy, for it is most difficult for us to think of Honest Abe, Teddy, Woody,

Herb, FDR, Harry, Ike, Jack, Dick, Ronnie, or Jimmy as royalty. Besides, we vote for or against them, not anoint them. Even replete with a kind of independence, we still crown Kings of the Road, Kings of Country Music, kings of this and kings of that. We elect Potato Queens, appoints Queens of the Thousand Islands, and the like. We use other pieces of royalty, and anyone, it seems, can become a lord, a duke, a prince, but we seem to draw the line at a peer, a baronet, even a princess (unless she is very young and maybe very pretty). Our respect for and awe of British royalty has been wittily dissected by the late Thomas Pyles, "British Titles of Nobility in American English," *American Speech*, 28:69-79.

What we have here, however, is the document that reveals substantial and factual details of the Royal Family, the Peerage, and the Baronetage. Besides the regal photograph of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the text contains nearly 400 pages of advertisements, tastefully but somewhat slickly provided to help defray the cost of publication, which certainly must have been expensive. Parenthetically, this section must be handled carefully, for the heavy pages have a tendency to slip their binding. The advertisers are indexed.

Among the front matter are abbreviations, indispensable for interpreting honors, positions, or academic degrees in the sketches to come later. Some deserve notice: m. diss., marriage dissolved; *Lp.*, Lordship; *Hants.*, Hampshire; *h.p.*, heir presumptive; *Salop*, Shropshire; *Dipl. INSEAD*, Diploma in European Institute of Business Administration. The "Preface" contains a notice that three Royal offices appear for the first time in *Debrett's*: The Queen's Champion of England (Lt.-Col. John Linley Marmion Dymoke), the Poet Laureate (Sir John Betjeman), and the Master of the Queen's Music (Malcolm Williamson). Other matters discussed are the assassination of Earl Mountbatten of Burma; the marriage of H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent; information that Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone (born 1883), is the oldest surviving member of the Royal Family; the names of five living Prime Ministers; the names of the Maids of Honour; and other announcements.

A section, "The Royal Family," contains a note on the Sovereign's official name (chosen by the Sovereign upon succession), the numbering of kings and queens; the Royal surname (a matter of some contention, since the Houses of Hanover and Saxe-Coburg and Gotha were ruling before surnames came into being); Royal Houses; titles and peerages of the Prince of Wales; an account of the Act of Settlement; and the Royal Marriage Act. The names of clubs referred to are listed, followed by a list of Life Peers, Law Lords, Life Peeresses, Hereditary Peeresses, and Peers who are minors. The names of extinct, dormant, abeyant, or disclaimed peerages form another section. Although probably all Peers know how to wear decorations and orders, a guide is conveniently provided "By courtesy of The Secretary, Central Chancery of Orders of Knighthood, 1971." The "Table of General Precedence" straightens out ranks and positions. Forms of addressing persons of title certainly help in secretarial matters.

The informational sections contain sketches of all members of the Royal Family, beginning with Queen Elizabeth II; "The Peerage," alphabetized, approximately 1,250 pages; the surnames of Peers and Peeresses, when these differ from the title; sketches of the members of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland; sketches of the Scottish Lords of Session; "The Baronetage," alphabetized, 895 pages; chiefs of names and clans in Scotland; and minor end matter. The "Order of Succession" lists 30 persons in line. Before the birth of Lord Frederick Windsor,

King Olav V of Norway was 30th, but now Lady Alexandra Carnegie has that place.

Debrett's surely is among the more carefully edited works in existence. Besides its purely informational use, it has research material for many disciplines; and now that it has a wide distribution in both the Commonwealth and in the United States, it will take its place as a major contribution to knowledge of a major ruling class, both hereditary and recently created. Its cost may be a deterrent to private ownership; although for the information available and because of its usefulness, besides the pure joy of reading the sketches, it probably costs less than five mediocre novels. Above all, it should be available in all libraries. Not often does a work of this caliber and worth become available through normal distribution. It is simply a book that belongs.

Kelsie B. Harder

Potsdam College of Arts and Sciences, Potsdam, New York

Supplement to Place Names of New Zealand. By A.W. Reed. Wellington (New Zealand): A.H. and A.W. Reed, 1979. Pp. 177. \$9.95.

After Alexander Wycliff (Clif) Reed finished his monumental *Place Names of New Zealand* (reviewed in *Names*, 24:4 [December 1976], pp. 319–321) he continued to gather material. The result is this *Supplement* which he calls a “*rourou*, a little basket of names.” In contrast to the earlier volume which concentrated on the more important localities and features, this includes names that are relatively unknown except to those who live in the area.

Reed acknowledges his debt to Garry G. Hooker, an expert on North Auckland Maori tradition and history, and his appreciation for the many “informative letters from readers” and documents his sources carefully. In using the parent volume for comparison, I have found that some changes have been minor and some additions only small details; however, the major additions are numerous.

The Clutha River entry has an entire page of additional information giving various sources, one of which states:

“Now Clutha being the ancient name of the River Clyde . . . would in that far country more especially, bring many cherished reflections to a Scottish heart, and, as a matter of course, would be adopted.”

One change from *Scotchmans Valley* to *Scotsmans Valley* is minor but is of interest because it contains a long quotation giving information on how it was named by Granny Shaw.

The entry for *Kohukohu* has been expanded from “another name that has many meanings such as mists, moss, seaweed. . . .” It gives a version from a visitor to the district in 1834 and a different one by Himiona “a chief learned in the traditions of the Ngapuhi.”

This volume does not stand alone, and when taken with the parent volume, the two present a magnificently complete picture.

Since Reed passed away in October, 1979, we are indeed fortunate that he was

able to add this to his numerous published works. We salute him for his contribution to onomastic science.

Lurline H. Coltharp

The University of Texas at El Paso

Place-Names of Greater London. By John Field. London: B.T. Batsford Ltd., 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 0AH, 1980. Pp. vii + 184. £6.95.

As stated in the Introduction this book offers an informal survey of Greater London Place-Names, a study intended for the general reader rather than for the onomastic specialist. The indebtedness of this work to four county volumes of the English Place-Name Society—Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, and Surrey—is acknowledged.

After a comprehensive, authoritative introduction, Part 1 consists of a Dictionary of Greater London Place-Names in alphabetical order. Part 2 is a discussion of the Street-names of Greater London under various categories such as oldest, alluding to direction, high streets, and descriptive terms under such subjects as plants, buildings, railways, saints, nobility, titles, families, personal names, and foreign names, politicians, and generals. Then follows a glossary of place-name elements in nine pages, a bibliography and indices.

One must quickly turn to the best-known name in London—Piccadilly Circus—derived from *piccadil*, the border of the cut-work inserted on the edge of an article of dress. The author says that the name is derived either from the manufacture of piccadils carried on here or because houses built here were on the outskirts of the developed area of that time.

For London the author gives “Londinos’s settlement.” He says it is a Celtic name formed in a conventional way from the personal name of a chief associated with the area either as a founder or as a memorable ruler.

Those interested in London and its history will find this work an outstanding and most interesting item. The principal thing that could make this work more important would be some study of the acquisition of many of the older names, but perhaps such a study would be impossible. Of course many streets and places have been deliberately named, but the old ones gradually acquired them through the day-to-day actions of the people.

Elsdon C. Smith

Computer-Aided Analysis of Amorite. By Ignace J. Gelb, with the assistance of Joyce Bartels, Stuart-Morgan Vance, Robert M. Whiting. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago Assyriological Studies, No. 21, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, 1980. Pp. xv + 657.

This is not a book review. It is included here as more of an announcement of the publication of an important work on Amorite names compiled by Dr. Ignace J. Gelb, a former president of the American Name Society.

The author states in his Introduction: "Our knowledge of Amorite is based almost exclusively on the analysis of proper names. The majority are personal names, but there is also a scattering of geographical names and names of divinities." As such this work must be formally recognized by the American Name Society.

After the explanatory Introduction the work has been divided into chapters entitled: Stems, Roots, Prefixes and Suffixes, Stem Count, Phoneme Count, Index of Names and Unanalyzed Names.

In his Preface Dr. Gelb explains that this volume will be followed by a much smaller volume which will contain, among other items, a grammar, a glossary and a brief history of the Amorites.

Elsdon C. Smith

Your Name—All About It. By Mary Price Lee. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 1980. Pp. 127. \$9.95.

Here is a book about personal names written to interest young children in their names. The author covers the subject from all angles—history, famous names, nicknames, odd names, name games, name changing. Also included are short lists of boys' and girls' names with origins and meanings. This is an attempt to give children interesting information about names in a manner attractive to them.

The principal criticism that can be made of this work is the observation that many statements are not more complete and accurate. The author, a free lance writer, does not seem to be an onomastic expert, but the work may play an important part in a child's mental development.

Elsdon C. Smith

A Saint for Your Name, Saints for Boys. By Albert J. Nevins. Illustrated by James McIlrath. Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. 200 Nall Plaza, Huntington, Ind. 46750, 1980. Pp. 120.

A Saint for Your Name, Saints for Girls. By Albert J. Nevins. Illustrated by James McIlrath. Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. 200 Nall Plaza, Huntington, Ind. 46750, 1980. Pp. 104.

Here are two good books which will answer the questions of parents searching for a

Saint's name for their offspring. The Catholic Church requires that only the names of saints and martyrs can be given at the time of baptism.

After a short introduction the author lists names in alphabetical order, each with language of origin, meaning, and other forms of the name, followed by a short sketch of important saints who have borne the name, together with their feast days. Some of the listed meanings are not recognized as correct by most authorities. Care must be exercised in connection with the other forms of the listed names.

These books include only the names of the principal saints out of the thousands in existence. Full page illustrations honor the most important saints. But these books will be found helpful by parents in their final choice of the names for their offspring.

Elsdon C. Smith

Grimnir: Rit um nafnfræði 1. 1980. Ritstjóri: Þórhallur Vilmundarson. Reykjavík: Örnefnastofnun Þjóðminjasafns, 1980. Subscription price, this issue, Icel. Kr. 7200 + porto.

Here is the handsome first issue of the first Icelandic onomastic periodical, a publication of the Icelandic Place-Name Institute. Subscriptions should be sent directly to Örnefnastofnun Þjóðminjasafns, Suðurgötu 41, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland. It is beautifully printed and bound. The contents are entirely in Icelandic except for short summaries in English of two of the chief articles.

After several main articles on such subjects as the names of waterfalls and Icelandic place-names in fairy tales, there occur notes on activities in the field, and then there follow some eighty pages containing over seventy shorter articles concerning Icelandic place-names. These are in alphabetical order according to the name. A short bibliography appears at the end. Almost the entire issue, which is profusely illustrated with maps and photographs, is from the pen of its editor, Professor Þórhallur Vilmundarson. This attractive scholarly journal, specializing in the names of an area full of history, romance, and geological wonders, is off to a good start. More power to it.

Eugene B. Vest, Emeritus

University of Illinois, Chicago Circle