

Book Reviews

Pubs, Place-Names, and Patronymics: Selected Papers of the Names Institute. Edited by E. Wallace McMullen. Madison, NJ 07940: Farleigh Dickinson University, Publications of the Names Institute, No. 1, 1980, Pp. xii + 279. Paper. \$6.00.

Alliterative titles are catchy enough, and I have been known to resort to such, but the one here hardly intimates the importance of this first publication by the now venerable Names Institute founded and carefully and assiduously nurtured, sometimes with nutriments beyond the call of duty, by E. Wallace McMullen and his helpmate, Marian, who may have contributed more to the success of the Institute than anyone else, spouse included. Through the tandem efforts of Wallace and Marian, the Names Institute has become a rite of spring and perhaps one reason for the continued existence of the American Name Society.

Usually, the articles of an onomastics publication constitute the substance of such a compilation. Since the articles, although of noted worth, are secondary to the importance of *PPP*, they will be given less prominence but with assurance that they are deserving. Some of the great names of the field of onomastics are represented, and many are omitted. Reasons for the latter will be particularized. All the articles selected were read at the Institute; in fact, all the authors are still actively involved in what can be called the heritage of the story of Rumpelstiltskin in the "awful mastery" of what something or someone is called.

The articles, "a sampling of the good fare we have enjoyed at the Institute the last eighteen years," as Professor McMullen writes in his "Preface," are divided into "Place-Names," "Literary Names," and "Other Names." The place-name section includes papers by Meredith F. Burrill, J. A. Reynolds, Leonard R. N. Ashley, Vivian Zinkin, Benjamin Nunez, Paul J. Sorvo, and Rene Coulet du Gard. Burrill and Ashley have served as presidents of the American Name Society. The subjects include the developments toward international cooperation by national geographic name standardization agencies, English pubs, West Jersey place-names, Caribbean topographics in Argentina, place-name research and electronic data processing, and the French heritage in America.

Arthur F. Beringause, Grace Alvarez-Altman, Penelope Scambly Schott, Martha O'Nan, and Walter P. Bowman contributed to the section on literary names. The subjects include the name of God, Antonio Buero Vallejo, Rosamond Clifford, William Faulkner, and Bowman's "Gilbert Without McMullen." Alvarez-Altman, the founder of the Conference on Literary Onomastics, has served the American Name Society in many capacities, now as a vice president. Beringause has served both the Institute and ANS in many positions, most prominently as program director of several Institute meetings and as Editor of the *Special on Names in Literature*, *Names*, 16:4 (1968).

The "other category" includes papers by Douglas P. Hinkle, Margaret M. Bryant, Richard

E. Wood, and McMullen's history of the Names Institute. With the exception of the latter, the others are routine, items on *Comacho*, name prefixes in telephone numbers, and names of the world's radio stations. The distinguished Margaret M. Bryant has served the ANS as president on two different occasions and has been a strong supporter of the Society from its beginning. She has also been in attendance at most of the Names Institute's meetings over the years and has read three papers and presided over five meetings. Professor Wood and Hinkle have been active in ANS for many years.

It is fitting that the publication is dedicated to Professor Allen Walker Read, whose interest and activity extends in published form from 1925 to the present. Here is not the place to recapitulate his extraordinary achievement in philology, folklore, linguistics, lexicography, and onomastics. Suffice to say that some of his accomplishments are listed on p. 226 of *PPP*, although mention of his contribution to the study of American graffiti is omitted. Well, I suppose *PPP* is a family publication. Also, lest we forget, Professor Read has read thirteen papers at the Institute. Those of us fortunate enough to have heard him read have been both informed and pleasurably stimulated in that oddity of intellectual enthusiasm that somehow Professor Read extends to his audience.

The meat of *PPP* is the front and end matter. First, the front: McMullen writes an appropriate and gentlemanly reserved dedication to Professor Read, including the text of the resolution on a national place-name survey of the United States adopted at the 1968 meeting of the Institute and later adopted by the ANS. McMullen also wrote the "Preface," "Introduction," and "Place-Name and the Editor." The "Preface" is a recount of previous attempts to publish the proceedings of the Institute and an acknowledgement for services rendered by proofreaders (despite demurrers, they missed a few typos), typists, deans, and, of course, Marian. In the "Introduction," the editor comments on the papers finally selected—apparently the only ones available, except the major ones by Professor Read, whose receipt of the dedication no doubt intervened and prohibited his being represented. Also, some inconsistencies on who is "dean of onomastics" occur in this section. "*Place-Name and the Editor*" qualifies as an article in itself, although its worth is debatable. Anyone who wishes to trace the usage of hyphenating, non-hyphenating, or the compounding of *place* and *name* can do so here. McMullen gives all the variations and possibilities, coming to the sensible conclusion that as a noun "*placename* is here to stay." Still, five closely-typed pages seem a bit much to spend on such an exhaustive bit of editorial minutia. Perhaps editors are too often obsessed with such minutiae rather than with substantive considerations.

"Milestones in the History of the ANS" were listed, p. xii, at the suggestion of Professor L. R. N. Ashley, president of ANS in 1979. Certainly, the publication of George R. Stewart's *Names on the Land* (1945) was a catalyst for the formation of ANS in 1951, but not the only one, as a reading of the minutes of the first meeting of the Society will clarify. Frederic G. Cassidy's *The Place-Names of Dane County, Wisconsin* (1947) remains as the model for place-name research and many researchers have profited by trying to emulate it. The resolution by Professor Read in 1968 to establish a national place-name survey served as the capstone of preceding work by Professors Cassidy, Francis L. Utley, and E. C. Ehrensperger, among others. The "Place Name Survey of the United States" had Professor Byrd Granger as its first national director, which is not to denigrate in any way the work carried on by the present director, Professor Fred Tarpley.

These selective, judgmental "milestones" obscure the real work of the ANS from its beginnings. First, place-name research is only one of the onomastic activities of the Society, as even a cursory glance at the contents will prove. Personal names, incidence of names, literary onomastics, theory, "proper" names of entities other than personal or place (such as ships,

boats, animals, shoes, furniture, automobiles and the like), psychology of naming, all, and more, are within the province of onomastics. The most important milestone in the history of ANS was its becoming stabilized in 1960 and then having twenty years of uninterrupted publication of *Names* and other publications and its having excellent direction by and cooperation among its officers. This is not the place to set out another list of significant events in the history of ANS, although the one listed in *PPP* needs to be considered in its narrow context and not within the broader prospectus of the Society. In fact, it can be argued that it has no relevance in *PPP*.

Turning to the end matter, I am impressed with McMullen's account of the history of the Names Institute and the generous recognition he gives to those who contributed to its initiation and survival. The credit, however, must go to McMullen himself. In spite of campus and personality conflicts incidental to all such undertakings, Professor McMullen managed, through his own character, to persuade recalcitrant deans and other minor administrators (who can be worse than termites eating at the foundation of a mansion) that the Institute was worthwhile. I envy him his success and more than that his patience.

"Something About the Authors" is deliciously complete with generous space given to the careers of those represented in the text. ANS members will be familiar with the public careers of most of these outstanding persons active in the study of names, but some surprises exist here. The section is most impressive and could be a model for notes on contributors in other publications. Listed also are the papers read at the Institute that have been published in book form or in articles, many of the latter in *Names*. A list of all participants in the eighteen programs includes welcoming officials, program chairmen, program directors, program coordinators, assistant NI directors, founder and NI director, proceedings editor, panel members, local arrangements committees, institute registrar, secretaries, and _____, 1963 NI Official Chauffeur. An alphabetical list of all Names Institute speakers brings few surprises, but the repeaters do indicate an Eastern Seaboard bias, as expected.

By far the most important feature of *PPP* is the list of the annual programs and abstracts of all the papers read. Here can be seen immediately the problem of selecting papers for this publication. As McMullen writes, it was not possible to find all the outstanding papers or, in some instances, find the readers of papers. It is hoped that some of the papers can be discovered and published in future issues. Anyone can make up a list of preferences. However, I would not dare. That would be plunging into the primitive deep where my gratitude would drown.

My quibbles aside, although two of them are serious, I recommend Publications of the Names Institute No. 1 in the strongest terms. Every member of the American Name Society should own a copy, for the information contained here centers the Name Institute as a major event in the study of onomastics. Besides being a repository of essential information, it affords an occasion for participating in the joy and fulfillment of the study of names or in any other research that adds to our understanding of ourselves and our surroundings.

Kelsie B. Harder

Potsdam, New York, College of Arts and Science

Rehovot Yerushalayim: Atariah HaHistoriah VeMosadotiah Madrich LeToshav VeLeTayar
(The Streets of Jerusalem: Historical Landmarks and Institutions; A Comprehensive Guide

for Residents and Tourists), 2nd ed. revised and updated by David Benvenisti. Jerusalem: Kiryat Sepher, 1979, pp. ix + 327., Price IS 38 (about \$4.00).

Jerusalem is at once a very old city and a very new city. The visitor who strolls the city will see ancient names like Jaffa Road, Bethlehem Road, Jericho Road as a contrast to new names such as Disraeli, Lloyd George, Washington, and Emile Zola. The guide lists hundreds of street names alphabetically by (1) family names, (2) quarter or section of Jerusalem, (3) bordering streets, and (4) grid coordinates on the map. Each entry also includes a short explanation of the street name. Arab villages and neighborhoods within the municipality of Jerusalem are also included. Old City names appear twice, in Arabic and Hebrew. Ex. "Hisda (Street), Gonen (neighborhood), Ben Zakkai-Bin Nun (adjacent streets), D-11. (Grid coordinates), One of the great Amoraim (teachers) during the second and third generations (217–309 C.E.). Head of the yeshiva at Sura, learned in Halacha and Agada, well-informed on agricultural matters."

Benvenisti explains that streets named after people may use: (1) the family name, as Washington, (2) the personal name, as Avinoam, for Avinoam Yellin, a famous educator, (3) an acronym by which the person has been known, as Rashi, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki, (4) the name of one of the person's books, as Emet Le'Yaakov, a book by Rabbi Yaakov Rephael Elgazi, and (5) the person's literary name or outstanding area of endeavor, as Achad Ha'am ("One of the People") penname for Asher Tsvi Ginzberg, Ha'Adrichal ("the architect") for Richard Kaufmann, Ha Mechanech ("the educator") for Yitzhak Epstein.

In addition to streets, historical sites, museums, and public institutions are described. There are even suggestions for walking tours. The book is a useful tool for getting around and understanding Jerusalem and a real bargain at the price. Let us hope it is translated soon into English.

Edwin D. Lawson

State University College, Fredonia, New York

P'soch Li Shimcha: Madrich Shimushi Livchirot Shem Priti (Tell Me Your Name: A Useful Guide for Choosing a Personal Name). Expanded ed. 1979, Pp. 140. Price about \$4.00. Distributed by Safrit Maariv, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Rosen's purpose is to attach a Biblical sentence to each person's name to strengthen the people in the physical land to the Bible, the spiritual homeland. He has assembled 3307 men's and women's names into 346 types according to first and last letters of the name. The following names would be spelled in Hebrew with an alef as the initial letter and a raish as a final letter: Adar, Ur, Avner, Eldar, Elinoar, Asher. Rosen selects the following passage from Psalms 137:4 as appropriate: "Aych nashir et shir adonai al admat nachor" ("How could we sing the Lord's name in a foreign land?"). In spite of the English transliteration the Hebrew passage does have the same initial and final letters as the names. For the names, Dekel, Dagul, Dael, Daniel, the appropriate line was selected from Genesis 49:16 "Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel." In a similar way passages are chosen for the other names,

that is, the first and last letter of the name are linked to the first and last letter of the passage. What Rosen has done is to document a custom perhaps three to four hundred years old that is followed by some Orthodox Jews, just one more example of the mysticism surrounding the naming process in various cultures.

Edwin D. Lawson

State University College, Fredonia, New York

The Handbook of American Counties, Parishes and Independent Cities. By René Coulet du Gard and Dominique C. Western. Newark, Delaware: Editions des Deux Mondes, P.O. Box 56, Newark, Delaware 19711, 1981. Pp. vi + 500. Maps. \$34.00.

What has, in the past, often prevented name scholars from investigating American place names systematically is the absence of reliable primary information in accessible form. Fortunately, this unsatisfactory state of affairs seems to be in the process of being remedied, since both the relevant government agencies and the Place-Name Survey of the United States are not far from providing us with comprehensive state gazetteers, on the one hand, and an introductory volume containing brief toponymic accounts of all fifty states, on the other. The book under review is another compendium which should considerably ease the life of those seeking basic primary information on the place names of the United States and their origins, at least in one particular administrative category—the county and its equivalents.

In many respects, *The Handbook of American Counties, Parishes and Independent Cities* continues where the authors' two editions of their *Handbook of French Place Names in the U.S.A.* left off but transcending their earlier linguistic focus while more or less employing the same methodology. The result is an impressive compilation which presents selective information about more than three thousand counties and parishes, notably the modern spelling of each name and its origins, as well as the size of the population (according to figures provided by the Bureau of the Census for 1973 and 1974), the county town (complete with post-office zip code), the area, and the date of creation of each county, or equivalent administrative unit. Most of this information is factual and therefore verifiable in the appropriate sources, although the advantage of this new publication lies in the accessibility of the data. The only item, under each heading, for which a certain amount of evaluation and judgement on the part of the authors was required, is of course the indicated source of each name, but even in this respect the reported derivation from names or titles borne by certain nationally or regionally known individuals places well over 2,000 names, or two thirds of the total, in a similarly factual category, especially in view of the fact that for most of the eponymous individuals in question documentable life spans are given. Of the 62 counties in New York State, for example, 37 have names which belong to this class, from *Albany*, the *Bronx*, and *Broome* to *Washington*, *Wayne*, and *Yates*.

Major linguistic and/or onomastic judgement is therefore needed mainly for those names for which there is no such identifiable historical context; this is especially true with regard to names of Native American origin which can only be handled with considerable linguistic expertise. On the basis of the entries for my sample state, New York, my impression is that this is the weakest aspect of the volume. Whereas names derived from tribal names such as

Allegany, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and *Wyoming* are fairly straightforward and require no etymological details, the explanation of such names as *Cattaraugus* "from the Seneca Indian word meaning 'Stinking banks'," *Chautauqua* "from a variation [sic!] of Seneca Indian word meaning 'Place where the fish was caught'," *Chemung* [not *Cheming* as in the text and index] "from an Indian word meaning 'Bighorn'," *Chenango* "from an Onondaga Indian word meaning 'Large bull-thistle'," etc. should have been presented with much greater caution and always with the citation of the etymon in question, since these and similar etymologies are not at all certain, as the authors' own entry for *Ontario*, i.e. "Iroquois Indian word meaning 'Beautiful lake'; according to some authorities the word means 'Rocks standing high' or 'Near the water'" indicates. Who are these "authorities" who suggest three radically different meanings for the same name? Is one to be trusted more than any other? This is a thorny field for the name scholar and one which still calls for much research and great care.

In the case of *Ontario* it might have been much better to have described it, like *Erie*, as a transferred lake name, just as *Chenango, Genesee, Niagara* and *Tioga* counties, for example, were probably named after the rivers which flow through them. The "Indian" etymologies provided by the authors are consequently primarily those of the water courses, and are only indirectly, if at all, applicable to the counties. It is, after all, of great interest to the historian as well as the name scholar to know how many names have been transferred from other topographical features, how many are converted personal names, and how many have other origins. To call a name vaguely "Indian" and to follow this with an unsubstantiated etymology is not enough. For the latter, at least the source of the asserted meaning should be indicated in all instances.

Despite these niggling reservations, this is a most useful book. Its arrangement in alphabetical order, state by state, is commendable as it is opened up by a comprehensive index so that it is indeed possible to see at a glance how many counties there are that are called *Jackson, Fayette, Washington*, or even *Crawford*. Certainly scholars who study American place names now have another valuable tool at their disposal.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen

State University of New York at Binghamton

The Place-Names of Dorset, Part II. By A. D. Mills. English Place-Name Society, Vol. LXXX. for 1975–1976. University Press, Cambridge: English Place-Name Society, 1980. Pp. 298; maps. Price: £15.

Part II of the proposed three-part series of the study of the place names of the County of Dorset covers the hundreds of Cogdean, Loosebarrow, Rushmore, Combs Ditch, Pimperne, Badbury, Cranborne, Wimborne St. Giles, Knowlton, and Monkton up Wimborne. The front matter consists of two maps of East Dorset, one illustrating the hundreds of parishes and the other delineating geological formations with the boundaries of the hundreds overlapping. The end matter consists of Dorset parishes with names keyed to the Parts already published. The ones to be placed in Part III are listed without reference, of course.

The text follows the pattern of other volumes, with the earliest known mention of a place listed first and dated. Each variant follows, with date. The origin of each name usually appears

in the gloss, whether it is for the hundred or the parishes within the hundreds. Under each parish gloss will be found names of townships or villages), and within these will be listed local names of bottoms, ponds, houses, gravel pits, anything named. Origins are not always noted. Pronunciations do not appear and have not been given in any of the volumes published so far by the English Place-Name Society. Field names within each parish are listed in small print and discussed at the end of each parish entry. Parenthetically, the field names have importance beyond the mere name, for they contain vocabulary material that cannot ordinarily be found surviving elsewhere. The names have primary interest for agricultural specialists and historians who need to ascertain the agrarian past of an era. Such names also contribute to the work of genealogists, historians, and archeologists. The best general study of field names is John Field, *English Field-Names: A Dictionary* (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1972). The editors of the place-name in the Society's volumes have made what may be called an exhaustive search and publication of the field names. No doubt, some errors have occurred in working through such a mass of material, but these must be considered light of the recovery, almost discovery, of the names that have so often been neglected in favor of the "major" places such as counties, cities, or other larger, more prominent, names.

Although the Dorset volume is much the same as all the others in the series, the editor has been faced with some difficult names to interpret, such as Pimperne, Steepleton Iwerene, Organ Ford, Spettisbury, Combs Ditch Hundred, and many others. Since so many interpretations are tentative and various, the editor must account for all that are probable. Choices are inevitable, backed by scrupulous scholarship.

The publications of the English Place-Name Society illustrate the best in place-name study, both in planning and in execution. Suggestions for improvement degenerate into mere quibbles.

Kelsie B. Harder

Potsdam, New York, College of Arts and Science

Estudio histórico sobre algunas familias españolas. Tomo V. By Alfonso de Figueroa y Melgar, Duque de Tovar. Madrid, 1974. Pp. 1511.

The American Name Society certainly is not an organization devoted to the narrow limits of genealogy, but the very foundation of genealogy is in a sense the story of names. This limited edition (500 copies), with an introduction by Dalmiro de la Válgoma, of the Spanish Academy of History, is directed in Part I (pp. 1-1072) to the historical study of the family names Melgar, Alvarez de Abréu, Medina-Lasso de la Vega, Mora, Piscatori, Díaz de Lavandero, Bertodano, de la Llave, Fernández de Astiz, Gil de Gibaja and dozens of related families. Part II (pp. 1073-1408), by Isidoro Vázquez, concerns the house of Gálvez and related families in Spain, Italy, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Chile, and "in other countries in the New World and the Old."

This voluminous work contains many photographs of persons, churches, castles, towns, coats of Arms, etc., as well as many family trees. The eighty-eight pages of the index of family names is some indication of the great number of names either studied or cited.

This is not a review, only a notice. However, in view of the many Spanish names considered in detail in this study, and in view of the many inquiries regarding Spanish names that have come to our Society in recent years, it seems advisable at least to devote a little space in *Names* to this mammoth volume.

Sterling Stoudemire

University of North Carolina, Emeritus
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Naming Names: Stories of Pseudonyms and Name Changes with a Who's Who. By Adrian Room. Jefferson, N.C. and London: McFarland & Company, Inc., Jefferson, N.C. 28640, 1981. Pp. x + 349. Price \$29.95 plus postage.

Here is a book produced to answer the many questions about pseudonyms and their use—a most valuable reference book, published simultaneously in England by Routledge & Kegan Paul. This work, as the author points out, is chiefly concerned with the original process of name creation. In the first six chapters pseudonyms are viewed from every angle.

To answer the question of why another name the author briefly calls attention to immigrants to a new land, especially America, who often acquired new names through their own ignorance and that of the officials to whom they had to give names, and many of which they could not spell. The practical advantage of changing from a foreign name to an English one was discussed. Groups most likely to adopt a pseudonym, besides writers, actors and entertainers, are criminals who select an alias, a word of Latin origin meaning “otherwise”; men opposing the government or other authority; and persons entering a religious order or being elected to the papal throne.

Perhaps the most important pseudonyms are those adopted to aid one in making a living. Those two most important groups are actors who need a stage name and writers who often must conceal their real identity. And in some detail the author tells us how to select and use a pseudonym. Selection and use of a pseudonym is not the same as “changing one’s name.” One who changes his name expects the new name to be permanent and the only name by which he is known.

After these first six chapters, eighty-nine pages are devoted to name stories, the kernel of the book. In brief paragraphs we are given a detailed treatment of some of the best-known pseudonyms and an account of their origin, often in the words of the personalities themselves.

Then in forty comprehensive lists, most of them with the original name of the person shown in one column and in a second his or her pseudonyms. A careful examination of these lists gives us much interesting information about the use of pseudonyms from all angles.

Name lists are followed by a Who’s Who and Index, the most extensive section of the book—more than a hundred pages. This provides us with the real names, the person’s pseudonym, followed by dates of birth and death, nationality, main occupation and, in some cases, nicknames.

In five Appendices are listed the seventy-nine pseudonyms used by Voltaire, the ninety-eight pseudonyms used by Danial Foe, better known as Daniel Defoe, the lovers private pseudonyms, the pseudonyms used by wrestlers and a selection of 250 real names that many

people might suppose to be pseudonyms. A fairly complete Bibliography completes the work.

Thus here we have a reference book which provides us with full information concerning pseudonyms used by English and Americans up to the present time together with the important and outstanding ones used in early times. Thanks, Adrian Room, for your careful work.

Elsdon C. Smith

The Book of Surnames, Origins and Oddities of Popular Names. By Peter Verstappen. London: Pelham Books, Ltd., 1980. Pp. 256. Price \$6.95.

This is a book about seventy-six of Britain's most popular surnames, together with the thousand-plus surnames with variant spellings or which relate directly to the seventy-six names. Together they comprise about half the population.

Each of the most popular surnames, with their related names fill a section or chapter of the book. After the common name the related names that share part or all of the same background are listed. Information about the origin of the name, where it comes from, where it first appeared, and how it grew are given. Other interesting facts and figures follow, such as a listing of famous bearers of the names, and a listing of the places or towns with names related in some way to the surname. The total number of estimated bearers in the British Isles and in a selection of cities in the United Kingdom and around the Commonwealth are also given.

Elsdon C. Smith

GALE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS: XXVI

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

Dahl, Hartvig, compl. *Word Frequencies of Spoken American English*. Essex, CT 06426: Verbatim, 1979 (dist. by Gale Research Co.). Pp. xii + 348. \$60.

Gale Genealogy & Local History Series, vols. 8, 10, 11, 13. Detroit: Gale Research Co., Vol. 8 (1980), pp. xxvii + 722, \$26; 10 (1980), pp. xxiv + 250, \$28; 11 (1981), pp. xviii + 363, \$36; 13 (1980), pp. xiv + 154, \$30.

Urdang, Laurance, ed. dir., and Nancy LaRoche, ed.-in-chief. *Picturesque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary*, 1st ed. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1980. Pp. viii + 408. \$35.

Laurance Urdang is a wordhound. Now, what is needed is a good definition of metaphor that will account for the features of the proper name involved and the complement, itself perhaps

ambiguous in the listing grammatical features but laden with lexical ones. Perhaps, as always, we should center on the underlying attribution of chase and the tenaciousness to stay with the quarry, with a dash of class and panache. Word chasers accrue to themselves a certain aura of the romantic, albeit in rather closed circles where words and expressions metaphorized into hedonistic realities that appeal to and somehow satisfy all senses. Read *Verbatim*, and elevate. In what is probably going to be the first of a series of word hunts, *Picturesque Expressions*, labelled on the cover blatantly as FIRST EDITION, say the editors (Urdang and LaRoche), "is designed to serve as a browsing book for word fanciers, as a reference book for language students, and as a resource book for writers." Directions then follow as to how to carry out these designations: For browsing, just browse. For the other two, just do what you always do when faced with a "thematic dictionary," look up words and expressions, sometimes in a regular order and sometimes by guess. The themes are word alphabetized: *Ability, Absence . . . Worthlessness, Zealousness*. Under the latter appear *barnburner, eager beaver, gung ho, hellbent*, and *whirling dervish*. Surely, *on the make, upward mobile, supercharger*, and a host of new sizzlers from the technological environments, will appear in the subsequent editions. Generally, the selections for entry are old-fashioned but for those my age still vibrant even if I am left in a holding pattern and waiting with forlorn hope for any port in the storm. The entries are well written, succinct, always informative. Not all the expressions are documented as to origin, etc., but this hardly matters. Quotations of early usages help date some in a cultural and time context. Some 3,000 entries will certainly contain us until the next edition arrives. Its price is just about that of a fairly good dinner replete with a couple of martinis and a small bottle of wine, but on balance the enjoyment inherent in *Picturesque Expressions* is just as satisfactorily filling and as delightfully heady.

The Gale Genealogy and Local History Series has many features that are outstanding and contains texts of uncommon interest with applications in many fields, the ostensible one being, of course, genealogy. As has been pointed out in other notices of these texts, they contain material pertinent to onomastics. Volume 8 in the series, *Black Roots in Southeastern Connecticut, 1650–1900*, by Barbara W. Brown and James M. Rose, contains names of blacks that parallel those found in other sections of the United States and whose appearance call into question some cherished notions about names, especially as they occur in the southern part of the United States. A concerted and rigorous research into the origin of many of the names needs to be undertaken in order to ascertain which ones are definitely of African origin, although changes and variations for one reason or another have masked the African origin in surely many cases. Especially under question are those names that have traditionally been considered "Classical," such as Phoebe, Cato, Pompey, Hercules, Caesar, and the like. One wonders if the homesteaders and slave-trading sailing captains had the same educational background in the "classics" in Southeastern Connecticut as is claimed for the Southern plantation owners. The curious coincidence of name patterns common to both areas adds to the possibility of truth in the statement by J. L. Dillard that variations on these names and also their similarity to ones observed in African languages "make us doubt that the owners and traders were such classicists as to be likely to conceive of such naming practices without the impetus of a (misunderstood) West African naming tradition."¹ Among the earliest names in English appearing for blacks are Caesar (probably the one with the highest incidence), Cato, Phoebe, Plato, and Hector. Murray Heller has edited the enormous collection of black names compiled by Newbell Niles Puckett.² Here can be seen immediately the remarkable similarity of black

¹*Black English* (The Hague: Mouton, 1976), pp. 21–22.

²*Black Names in America: Origins and Usage* (Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1975).

names in Southern states and those recorded in Connecticut. Although Puckett attempted to include the names of freed blacks and black soldiers, he did not have available the detailed material that was used by Brown and Rose. Still, a comparison of the lists can be most illuminating. It becomes obvious that some of these classical names are variations played on African names that slave traders could not render into English or whatever language they were using without resorting to sound patterns familiar to them. Of course, in most cases, the African name was ignored; hence, any *old* name would do. Once owned, however, the legal amenities of the area dictated that the black be given a recognizable name for recording purposes. Somehow, a few of the blacks managed to retain their names, or some semblance of them, especially if they had names like *Keta* (Cato), or *Heka* (Hercules), or *Phiba* (Phoebe). Other suspicious ones are Caesar, Pompey (which also appears often as Pomp), Scipio, and perhaps others if the African languages are searched for origins. Although time would have to be expended, the research itself should be easy to carry out, for both Heller and Brown & Rose have documented their sources.

The problem for a researcher from the United States is finding the African origins, if any. Many names included in Heller are in a "Dictionary of African Origins" which lists forms from slave-selling countries,³ but he cautions that "our concern is with the degree *and* purity of these Africanisms." He says that the "collection suggests an almost complete rejection of Africanisms in terms of name usage." No doubt, Heller is correct in general, but this does not obviate, as a cursory examination of the "dictionary" and the names in the lists by both Heller and Brown & Rose shows immediately, the fact that many of the names have an English appearance, yet certainly derived from a source other than English (or any of the slave traders' languages). Also, the descendants of slaves seem to have names that resemble Africanisms. The whole range of these lists needs interpretation and concluding remarks if only to lay to rest some historical problems regarding both the names and the fate of those who owned them. *Black Roots* is a major contribution to the study of black names in the United States and definitely cannot be ignored by anyone who seriously studies them.

Volume 10 in the Gale Series is *Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of California*, compiled by Nathan C. Parker; and Volume 13 is *Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa*, compiled by Elsie L. Sopp. These compilations of lists, alphabetically arranged, serve the genealogists' purposes through name mentioning, as well as the source for the listing. The choice of 1856 for indexing names came about because it is halfway between the census schedules of 1852 and 1860. Limitations do occur, such as the mere fact that some cities and counties did not publish directories during this time. The California volume contains 24,087 names, while the Iowa one contains about 15,200. For the study of names, the volumes provide material on the incidence of names, different name forms, origin of names, and hints as to source material for place names that might otherwise not be available. Although the California area has been well covered by Erwin and Elisabeth Gudde, the purely local and place names that would come to light in a field survey have not been recorded. The state of Iowa is not represented with a place-name text of any great merit, but a few items are listed in the Seely and Sealock bibliographies.

Volume 11, *Montana's Genealogical and Local History Records*, compiled by Dennis Lee Richards, is the sort of bibliography that should be made available for each state. As Professor of Library Services and Documents Librarian at the University of Montana, Richards has the credentials for building a bibliography and effectively annotating it. He also understands the problems. For instance, cemetery records are scarce, perhaps understandably when regulation

³*Ibid.*, 347-469.

of burials is almost non-existent, especially in non-urban areas. He notes that the *Directory of the National Association of Cemeteries* is not useful for Montana, nor, from my experience, is it useful for any other states, except to find out which cemetery association is listed. Non-members are excluded. For the place-name researcher, cemetery records have specific purposes, such as finding the birth and death dates of persons for whom a place is named. Such may not be available elsewhere. Also, every cemetery has a name, usually taken from either the owner of the land on which it is located or from the name of the first person buried there. Some, of course, take their names from a nearby church.

The Montana bibliography includes a list of Montana gazetteers, which covers the major publication on place names, the one by Roberta Carkeek Cheney, *Names on the Face of Montana* (1971), being the most important. The scope of this text precludes the purely local names, something unavoidable in all state place-name publications so far, with the possible exception of *Connecticut Place Names* by Hughes and Allen and Alaska by Orth. Other important sources noted include historical items, both books and periodicals, land records, maps and atlases, Native-American sources, post offices and records, and then sources by county. For the place-name researcher in Montana, the volume is indispensable.

Word Frequencies of Spoken American English is a collection of 1,058,888 words (tokens, here), spoken during 250 psychoanalytic sessions by 29 speakers (30 dialogue situations). Fifteen sessions were selected randomly from 15 separate psychoanalytic cases. The patients were seven female and eight male, average age in late twenties, "and one female and 13 male psychoanalysts, one of whom contributed two cases." The analysands and the analysts were "mainly well-educated (though far from equally articulate) middle-class persons" and were "native speakers of American English." A comparison of this corpus with other corpora (Thorndike-Lorge, 1944; Kučera and Francis, 1967; and American Heritage, 1971): Two of these were collections of written tokens (K & F and AH) and make some revealing, but not unpredicted, comparisons with the spoken corpus by Dahl. The more interesting one is that in spoken English 848 different words account for 90% of the total, while the K & F written corpus shows 7,955 to account for the total (1,014,232) words. Other differences between the spoken and written corpora show that tokens denoting profanity occur with a much greater frequency in spoken rather than in written material. In fact, the low frequency of such terms (non-frequency in one collection) indicates some severe editing and consequently reducing of the validity of the material. K & F did not delete these from their written corpus, but the differences in frequency are significant, even so to say that such terms occur more often in ephemeral speech than they do in relatively permanent writing.

Such a collection has great value as raw data for research by behaviorists, including behavioral linguists. For instance, it is probably good to know that *I* was used most frequently (65,323 times) in these particular psychoanalytic sessions, with *and* (38,020), *the* (29,753), *to* (29,653), *that* (27,558) and *you* (26,598) following. The gap to *it* (20,542) is quite large. Of the 17,871 types, 6,837 were used with a frequency of one. Naturally, some of these were names: Marcuse, Mickey Mouse, Mailer, Malcolm X, Marlon Brando, Mars, Marshall, Marx, Maryland, Mattau, Mazlow, McCarty, Melvin, Moscow, and a few hundred more. They could be counted, except that personal names have been coded to protect those involved in the sessions. Names (all types) are not listed separately, nor are they as a whole given a frequency, since they appear only as tokens within the corpus. The reliability of the collection is as near absolute as can be humanly made, although many factors need to be considered when the corpus is used for research purposes. Dahl has anticipated them.

Kelsie B. Harder

Potsdam, New York, College of Arts and Science