

# Book Review

## Gale Research Publications

This survey of publications by Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226 gives prominent notices to books of interest to readers of *Names*. Titles and bibliographical information follow:

- Cushing, William. *Initials and Pseudonyms: A Dictionary of Literary Disguises*. 2 vols. New York: Thomas Cromwell, 1885 & 1888. First Series, ix + 603 pp. Second Series, iv + 314 pp. Republished, Gale Research Co., Detroit, 1982. \$71.00/set.
- Meyer, Mary Keyson, and P. William Filby, eds. *Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry*. 1st ed. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1982. Pp. 232. \$50.00.
- Phillips, Lawrence B. *Dictionary of Biographical Reference*. 3d ed. London: S. Low, Marston, & Co., 1880. Republished, Gale Research Co., Detroit, 1982. Pp. xiv + 1,038. \$90.00.
- Urdang, Laurence, ed. dir.; Alexander Humez, ed.; Howard G. Zettler, assoc. ed. *Suffixes and Other Word-Final Elements of English*. A Laurence Urdang Reference Book. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1982. Pp. x + 363. \$45.00.

Wordaholics will welcome the satiation of one craving, that of finding a list of suffixes so that they can be taken in greedily without ripping off dictionaries for oddities and searching long and laboriously among word debris for nubs and butts to alleviate the torment that initiated the search in the beginning. Finally, someone has seen fit to bring together most of the suffixes, and it is especially appropriate that Laurence Urdang would be the editorial director of the task. The sub-title of the text notes the particulars: "A Compilation of More Than 1,500 Common and Technical Free Forms, Bound Forms, and Roots That Frequently Occur at the Ends of Words, Accompanied by a Detailed Description of Each, Showing Its Origin, Meanings, History, Functions, Uses and Applications, Variant Forms, and Related Forms, Together with Illustrative Examples, the Whole Uniquely Arranged in Reverse Alphabetical Order for Ease of Use, Supplemented by a Detailed Index, in Normal Alphabetical Order, Containing Entries for All of the Foregoing." This slug covers the territory.

Perhaps a few of the more recent "endings" are missing, *-aholic* being one, *-gate* another, but one would have to make a tedious search to find omissions. Urdang is, of course, aware that other "endings" have been missed and asks that users let him know of their existence for possible inclusion "in a subsequent edition." An experienced lexicographer, Urdang knows how to simplify entries for the benefit of the user. Each entry contains a sequential number for the element, the entry, a descriptive text (origin,

meaning, and usage label), examples (five existing ones warrant a listing), variants, and related forms. An example of an entry follows:

**1180 -ONYM** A noun-forming word-final element, derived from Aeolian Greek *ONYMA*, *ONYMAT-* ‘name’ (cf. Attic-Ionic *ONOMA*, *ONAMAT-*), used in combination meaning ‘a name, word’ of a sort specified by the combining root: **SYNONYM**, **ANTONYM**, **PSEUDONYM**. Related forms: **-ONYMY**, **-ONYMOUS**, **-ONYMOUSLY**, **-ONYMIC**, **-ONYMICALLY**; **-ONYMS** (*plural*).

The reverse listing may cause some difficulty for beginners until they recognize that they will have to alphabetize backwards to establish order; for instance after *-a*<sup>4</sup> comes *amoeba*, then *-ostraca*, *-cocca*, and so on, all regular and sensible. The “Index” aligns all entries and examples in the conventional alphabetical order.

Many of the suffixes occur in “proper names,” or ones that carry capital letters. Some of these include *-a* as a word-final element in taxonomic nomenclature denoting classes of animals (Fissipeda, Scorpionida), *-a* to form feminine names (Alexandra, Roberta), *-cocca* in the naming botanical genera of shrubs (Melicocca, Sarcococca), *-ica* (Judaica, Thebaica), *-(r) rhyncha* “to denote divisions of creatures according to the shape or qualities of their muzzles” (Menorhyncha, Oxyrrhyncha), *-ald* (Reginald, Donald, Gerald), *-bald* (Archibald, Theobald), *-field* (Canfield, Sheffield, Chesterfield), *-land* (Rhineland), (Yankeeland), *-wood* (Norwood, Atwood), *-ard* (Richard, Leonard), *-ford* (Oxford, Bedford), *-ward* (Edward, Howard), *-ice* (Beatrice, Janice), *-ville* (Nashville, Louisville), *-corn* (Capricorn), *-ton* (Hopkinton, Milton), *-town*, *-er* (New Yorker), *-ster* (Webster), *-moor* (Dartmoor, Exmoor), *-color* in copyrighted names (Technicolor, Du-faycolor), *-mas* (Christmas, Candlemas), *-ness* (Inverness, Skipness Point), *-shaw* (Bradshaw, Crashaw), *-low* (Marlowe, Winslow), *-stow* (Chepstow, Elstow), and many more. This is an excellent reference book as well as one that can serve as an informative and pleasing browser. It complements Urdang’s earlier *Ologies & Isms* (Gale, 1978). It is strongly recommended for anyone who has to have commerce with words.

*Initials and Pseudonyms*, a reprint of a valuable earlier book long out of print and difficult to obtain, contains over “18,500 pseudonyms and initials used by 12,500 authors from America and England, as well as major Continental writers.” The volumes are of particular value to researchers who are baffled by initials as signatures to articles and other printed items, even poems. Each volume has two listings, one the initial and pseudonym section, the other the names of the writers.

Hiding one’s name under an abstraction, a pseudonym, or even an initial probably is not so common today, although in today’s paper I found letters signed “A Concerned Parent” and “a Patriot.” These occur in letters to editors throughout the United States, but seldom if ever attached to a poem, story, article, or book, despite the widely used pseudonyms, which, in a sense, are aliases and exist for many reasons. Occasionally can be found such intrepid signatures as “A Happy Hooker” or, in a less strenuous occupation, “The Underground Grammarian.” These hardly compare with the wild activity of signers in the past when tenure did not depend on getting the correct name attached to the right article. Publicity can be translated into money, fame, notoriety; consequently, modern Americans, at least, tend to revel in seeing their names in print: “My name is my fortune.”

Some of the signatures (names) are whimsical, allowing for playfulness, such as T. R. D. J. S. D. O. P. I. I. for The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Swift, “Dean of Patrick’s in Ireland.”

Samuel Johnson used the initial *T* in his contributes to the “Adventurer.” Among the eleven pages of pseudonyms and the like attributed to Junius (whose famous letters appeared from 1768 to 1772) are Testiculus, Testis, X. X., Amicus Curiae, Anti-Belial, Poplicola, and Y.Z. The legendary Mother Goose is identified as Mrs. Elizabeth (Foster) Goose, believed to have been born in 1719, but the compiler questions his information. Asterisks (Henry Ward Beecher used one, while Thomas LeMesurier used eight), dashes, musical notes, pointing fingers, and Greek letters were used as signatures or as name references. The high and low are represented, too, and cover names in the news from “the beginning of the 18th century to the present time (1885).” Besides being a curiosity, the text contains material on obscure figures that would be difficult to find elsewhere.

Another massive nineteenth-century compilation is *Dictionary of Biographical Reference*, which foreshadows such twentieth-century engorgements as *Who's Who*, *Who's Who in America*, and other indexes of the names of persons. This one — remember, before the age of computers and of thousands of semi-skilled academics — contains biographical material on “over 100,000 persons of all nations and periods of history.” Names are entered to 1888 in the third edition. The compiler makes much of the portability of the text and the condensation of material, almost to the point of notational entries and “unreadability.” Further, the contents include the material from 42 specialized dictionaries, all duly noted and keyed to the listings. In a work of such scope, the information has to be sparse but comprehensive. Within one or two lines of a double-columned format, the compiler “provides the subject’s full name, assumed names and sobriquets, nationality, occupation or area of prominence, years of birth and death (or period during which the person lived), and a code indicating the biographical works where full accounts of the individual may be located.” Having produced a prodigious and ambitious work, the compiler must have experienced hours of tedium and boredom, for he quotes Samuel Johnson’s lament that the lexicographer is among the most unhappy of mortals, “doomed only to remove rubbish” and living the life of “the harmless drudge,” etc. The longish “Preface,” however, attests to the pride the compiler took in producing this excellent reference work, an astounding accomplishment for its time.

Since the members of the American Name Society gingerly and suspiciously have begun to recognize that genealogists can make contributions to the study of names and patterns in naming, the appearance of a *Who's Who* in the discipline is a welcome event. So far as I know, this is the first such directory in existence. Of course, the listees are not all “genealogists,” for a sprinkling of the names of experts in heraldry falls among those who seem to be primarily interested in ferreting out for a price names of ancestors who need a legitimate family line to cure an insecurity. The prevailing bias and prejudice aside, some of the practicing genealogists in the United States are outstanding scholars whose careers, often in an academy, reflect their achievements in research in history, medicine, demography, languages, or church history and records.

One of the leading young scholars in the field is Robert Charles Anderson, whose papers read at meetings of the American Name Society have contributed to our recognition of the need for the services of the professional genealogist whose training and knowledge of records place individuals, dates, and relationships in perspective and on an authentic base. His educational background and professional motivation are indicative of the seriousness of the present generation of genealogists who have set for themselves rigorous professional standards and now have established a credentials’ organization, Board for Certification of Genealogists, with a permanent office in Washington, D.C. The only state boards so far are Genealogical Society of Utah and Association for

Certification of Minnesota Genealogists. In the other 48 states, apparently anyone can set up a kitchen industry in genealogy. Some overlapping occurs at the national level with, in addition to the Washington, D.C. office, The Association of Professional Genealogists (Salt Lake City) and International Genealogy Consumers Organization (also of Salt Lake City). Associations for certifying also exist in England and Australia. Other countries probably have such organizations, but they are not listed here.

The directory lists only about 800 narrowly selected professed genealogists based on contributions to the discipline, achievements, and public interest. The latter would include the generalists, mostly newspaper reporters and moonlighters, such as would be found in any professional listing. The entries contain a mass of information, far beyond what one would find in, say, *Who's Who in America*, where many of these are also listed, since their achievements move beyond that of being a genealogist. Most of the entrants have long dossiers of publications and other professional activities, altogether an impressive group under any and all criteria.

The cover lists the book as Volume 1, which surely should be First Edition, as it is called throughout the front matter in the news release for it. Make no mistake, this is an important directory, one that does honors for a budding scholarly field and for the two editors who have taken painstaking care and an obvious pride in their work and responsibilities.

Kelsie B. Harder  
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#### ANNOUNCEMENT

*Comments on Etymology* appears b-weekly October-May. Cost: \$4.00 per year (Libraries and institutions: \$8.00). Professor Gerald Cohen, Editor and Publisher, Humanities Department, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, MO 56401

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