

27. Its nomenclature is much more varied than that of the Weald: a point perhaps worth pondering when comparing the early-colonized wood-pasture regions with those settled mainly after the Conquest.
28. These figures are based on the one-inch map; the 2½" sheets might add further examples. 'Green' also occurs frequently (19 times) and 'end' is very common; but one suspects that in most cases these relate to more recent secondary settlements, here as elsewhere.
29. Cf. Smith, *op.cit.*, I, p.135. This is certainly the significance of Drayton (between Nevill Holt and Brighthurst) in Leics., and Draughton (near Old and Walgrave) in Northants. At Dry Drayton in W. Cambs. (formerly Wald Drayton) the present lane leading up the hill from the village, to the once-wooded country to the south, probably represents the old dray. I have discussed this element (and some others) in 'The Wolds Once More', *Journal of Historical Geography*, V, 1979, pp.67-71.
30. Smith, *op.cit.*, II, p.18. In Kent the name is particularly common, most frequently in the local form 'leacon'. It invariably relates to a subsidiary settlement, as at Westwell Leacon, Warehorne Leacon, etc. These are generally obscure outlying places, often a mile or more from the parent settlement, and can hardly have been the 'leek enclosures', 'kitchen gardens', or 'herb gardens' sometimes suggested. The fact that they are usually sited on the wooded sandy or heathy spots often favoured by the wild leek or garlic is suggestive, and in some cases this plant may still be found there. This explanation also fits the Leics. Laughton (next Mowsley). The point is that these all look like poor outlying woodland places in origin, and not productive domestic gardens: see my article 'The Wolds Once More', *loc.cit.*, p.169 and n.
31. Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape, 1976.

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RICHARD MCKINLEY, *The Surnames of Oxfordshire*, English Surnames Series III, Leopard's Head Press: London, 1977, xi + 133 pp., £8.00.

Setting a philologist to review an historian must be unfair to both; for, agree though they may in both being 'applied' anthroponymists, their preoccupations cannot but diverge.

Mr. McKinley is not, nor does he claim to be, the boldest of etymologists. Among the twelfth-century forms he renounces all attempt to explain are Chevauchesul (p. 10), 'the lone ranger' (sul being the normal reflex of solum in such twelfth-century Anglo-Norman texts as the Digby Roland) and Kepeharm, alleged to occur only in Oxford (pp. 25-6), but certainly found also in late-twelfth-century Canterbury and perhaps meaning 'fend off danger' (see *MED* s.v. kēpen, sense 3b.(b), and cf. 17a.(a) and 18.(a)). About all matters linguistic there is a pervasive uncertainty: thus, the mid-thirteenth-century forms de Eschecker, de la Cheker, are dismissed as 'presumably Anglo-Norman', with the comment, 'It may be doubted if any Middle English forms existed' (p.19); but must we assume, just because *MED* notes no literary occurrence earlier than Floris and Blanche-flour (? 1250-1275), that previously the vernacular could name neither games-board nor fiscal institution? Of all by-name categories, nicknames get least attention here (the preceding volume on Norfolk and Suffolk [reviewed in *NOMINA* I by Peter McClure] largely omitted them), perhaps because of their individuality.

For the theme of this series so generously sponsored by the Marc Fitch Fund is not etymology but local history, especially the study of small-scale population movements. A major topic here is therefore the immigration which built up Oxford's population, traced through noms d'origine referring to places elsewhere in the county or outside it, the conclusion being that, apart from Oxfordshire itself, only the neighbouring Berkshire played much part in peopling the city. Yet, even from this point of view, some tricks are missed. In contrast with the painstaking work on migration-patterns inside England, little notice is taken of non-aristocratic immigration from the Continent: admittedly a complex question to study through by-names, whose transmission remains so obscure. In some medieval English towns the by-names current included not only continental noms d'origine but also many nicknames paralleled in continental records, especially those of towns in north-eastern France; and it would have been useful to know whether, as some forms cited (e.g., in the lists on p.261) suggest, this was true of Oxford also - but the question is never put. Perhaps in this local history the accent falls too heavily on 'local'.

Yet, paradoxically, the local restrictions of this series also widen its scope; for scrutinizing a single county brings out patterns blurred by over-ample material. Here, as in the Norfolk and Suffolk volume, the rise of hereditary family-names is carefully plotted: in Oxfordshire too the process was gradual and capricious, beginning with the post-Conquest gentry but not completed until the sixteenth century. In Oxford city, unexpectedly, family-names seem not to have become fixed until later than for the corresponding social groups in country districts. And now structural development is analysed more systematically than before. Until about 1300 patronymics are mainly appositional and asyndetic. Then, after 1300, the familial -s, so rare in the thirteenth century, rapidly becomes common; its early appearances with masculine occupational surnames borne by women suggest

that it may partly have arisen for indicating wives and widows (the author might have contrasted, but does not, the medieval French way of feminizing a masculine by-name transferred to wife or daughter). In Oxfordshire the -son suffix is consistently rarer than -s. Rough checks with material from other counties suggest geographical variation, with names in -son commoner in the north than in the south, whereas -s formations were commonest in the West Midlands (including Oxfordshire), less so in the south-east and least of all in the north. This pattern is linked with the well-known shifts in popularity of certain types of baptismal name: surnames in -son are normally based on those current after 1300, often on their colloquial short-forms; so too those in -s, with which the use of pet forms is even more marked; forms without suffix, by contrast, are based either on pre-Conquest names (which seem to have survived fairly strongly in late-twelfth-century Oxford) or on post-Conquest ones disused by 1300. Localized study brings to light other points of interest to philologist as well as to historian: the rarity in Oxfordshire of topographical surnames in -er; and various contrasts between the topographical vocabulary here and that of East Anglia.

Its cumulative structure is indeed proving the great strength of this series, with county after county studied on similar lines, from similar materials, and often by the same scholars. Here Mr. McKinley is able, as we have just seen, to compare his new findings both with his own for Norfolk and Suffolk and with Dr. Redmonds's for Yorkshire.

Wisely, however, no mechanical uniformity is imposed to restrict the scope. Two new chapter-headings distinguish this volume from the Norfolk and Suffolk one, referring to women's surnames and to those of bondmen. Until the early fourteenth century the right of women to surnames of their own was widely allowed, so that in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries upper-class women might pass their own surnames to legitimate offspring, and wives of burgesses retain their own family-names; only by the fifteenth century did this right come to be systematically denied. As for serfs' names, these pose some wider questions. With little mobility or variety of occupation, serfs necessarily showed surname-patterns different from those of freemen, with higher proportions of patronymic forms and of topographical ones of the 'At the green' type. Yet many bore surnames apparently apt only for freemen, such as, for instance, Bishop, Burgess, Chancellor, Clerk, Justice and Merchant, or even foreign noms d'origine and other aristocratic family-names such as Doyly and Mortimer. Sometimes these may have arisen through association, with lords or neighbours, through supposed likeness, or even through illegitimacy; but most, as McKinley remarks, 'may well have been really nicknames, bestowed, like many nicknames, for reasons that are not now discoverable' (p. 204). If true for serfs, this may also have been partly so for other groups; and, if seeming noms d'origine and occupational terms were sometimes mere nicknames, then analyses of their significance become problematical - a depressing thought for all applied anthropologists.

This book is full of such revelations, the fruit of scrutinizing the archives with a thoroughness never before attempted. And, as the progressing series allows fuller and fuller cross-reference, we can hope to see the true story of our early surnames emerging with new clarity. The pity is, that a good book, and a good series, falls short of excellence through a shyness that hamstrings dealings not only with the international ramifications of the material but also with its essential philological background.

CECILY CLARK

E.G. WITHYCOMBE, The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names. Third Edition. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1977. pp. xlvii + 310. £4.50.

LESLIE ALAN DUNKLING, First Names First. London, J.M. Dent & Sons, 1977. 285pp. £4.50.

"Contrasting and complementary" is the phrase that comes to mind on a first perusal of the two volumes under review. Here we have, on the one hand, the third edition of an alphabetically arranged reference work whose major purpose it is to provide, on the basis of early spellings and other historical documentation, the original linguistic ascription and lexical etymology of each name listed; and, in the same year of publication, we are offered, on the other hand, an anecdotal and informative melange which deliberately spurns "origins" and concentrates on "associations". The one, the Dictionary, is intent in all its endeavours, to reduce the names it lists to the words they once were; the other, the "collection of facts and figures" makes it its central business to treat names as names and to analyze their function in our society. Both try to instruct, but whereas Withycombe attempts to convince through documentary evidence, Dunkling clearly wishes to create interest by making authoritative data entertaining. A hypercritical, tough reviewer might well be tempted to call the former approach old-fashioned and the latter new-fangled, but a more constructive view might, without loss of critical standards, be prepared to see the simultaneous publication of these two volumes as a boon rather than a predicament, for that growing number of people who have become fascinated with names. The obvious advice, in that case, is: Don't read one, read both!

Naturally, the third edition of a work first published in 1945 and then revised in 1950 does not ask for detailed comment, unless its latest revision is so thorough as to make it very different from the first two. Unfortunately the limited amount of updated and corrected material included only demands a limited commentary. Basically, this is the second edition of 1950, with 43 names added and certain corrections and adjustments made in some of the items carried over from the last revision. The new material is easily distinguished typographically since it is so much more pleasing aesthetically and so much clearer than the reproduction of the old text which could have done with a face-lift after 34 years. As it is, as one turns page after page, their outward appearance accurately reveals their inner state. The patchy nature of so many text areas is an indication of conservative reliance on an "established" corpus of evidence and conclusions, with a minimum of attention to more recent scholarship. How could it otherwise be possible that Reaney's two very fine volumes on British surnames - A Dictionary of British Surnames (1958) and The Origin of English Surnames (1967) - are still not included in the bibliography and consequently not utilized in the body of the work? Even if one does not accept all of Reaney's findings, one ignores such first-rate scholarship to one's peril. In fact, nothing new seems to have been added to the "List of References" since 1950, whereas such articles as HAIDÉE, RADEGUND, ROWENA, SEAN, and WILHELMINA have been revised to varying degrees. The truly innovative portions are the over forty new items which appear scattered throughout the pages and are summarized on the back flap. From the first half dozen of these - ARAMINTA, AUBERON, BARUCH, BERINTHIA, BEVERLEY, BONAVENTURE - readers get a good impression of the curious range of that list which pays more attention to the literary, historical and classical background of "Christian Names" than to their current status. It is not surprising, therefore, that two of the fifty most popular girls'

names in England and Wales in 1975 are not mentioned at all in the Dictionary: DONNA and KELLY (Dunkling, p. 176) and that three of the top fifty boys' names are also missing: CRAIG, DEAN, and WAYNE (Dunkling, p. 178). Are these not just the names which will be of greatest interest to a reader rather than ALBERIC, ENDYMION, or FREDEGONDE, although the exclusion of these three and others like them is by no means advocated here, even if they are not in a true sense "Christian"? Even if the origin of a first name or the initial stimulus for its fashionableness lies in the recent past, the name is worthy of inclusion. The patina of antiquity or hallowed literary usage does not make it a better name; it is the Registers of Births that count.

Such Registers and other listings of named infants count a great deal with Dunkling in whose pages one would look in vain for ALBERIC, ENDYMION, and FREDEGONDE, for First Names First - note the difference in terminology! - presents well researched statistics in chronological order, as well as the quaint, the curious, and the absurd. Those who are familiar with his Guinness Book of Names will again find the refreshing comment, the felicitous turn of phrase, a sense of the authentic, as well as an eye for the unusual. Indeed, there are quite a few areas of overlap between his two books - the selection of topics and material, as well as in the style of their presentation; as in the former volume the reader is again charmed into an onomastic world in which one can match faces and names, be informed about "link names" (names of girls formed by the addition of suffixes from boys' names, like ANDREA, ANDREANA, ANDREENA, ANDRENA, ANDRENE, ANDREWINA, ANDRIENE, ANDRINA, ANDRINE, and DANDY from ANDREW), learn that WILLIAM was the first name of 1449 of every 10,000 male children born in 1850 but only of 67 in 1975, read about the age-old problem of remembering names, receive at least some hint as to some of their verbal associations, or subject oneself to "First Name Quiz" - and, of course, a hundred other things besides. It's an anthropomorphic cornucopia.

As things stand, I shall use both Miss Withycombe's and Mr. Dunkling's books with profit and pleasure, as well as the latter's Scottish Christian Names, a fine paperback publication (London and Edinburgh, Johnston and Bacon, 1978, £1.95) which in its own way supplements the Oxford Dictionary. For traditional scholarly sobriety and etymological detective work I shall go to Miss Withycombe; for enthusiastic competence and fun-filled statistics (not a contradictio in adiecto, after all) I shall turn to Mr. Dunkling. Such dual use seems to be an unbeatable combination. As a frequent user, I have one wish of each of the publishers concerned: O.U.P., please envisage a thoroughly modernised and reset edition of the Dictionary in the not too distant future; Dent's, please do not employ such abysmally minute type in an index ever again. In the meantime, "contrasting and complementary" is the phrase that comes to mind after a close reading of the two volumes under review.

W.F.H. NICOLAISEN

K. FORSTER, Englische Familiennamen aus Ortsnamen, Hans Carl Verlag, Nürnberg, 1978, xii + 264 pp. 24 DM.

An abstract of Dr. Forster's work has already appeared in NOMINA (vol.1, no.2). Dr. Forster deals systematically with the phonetic changes which have affected English surnames derived from place-names. The sound changes which have occurred in the more common place-name elements are fully discussed, and illustrated with a great number of examples. The evidence presented justifies Dr. Forster's contention that where the spelling and pronunciation of a locative surname differ from those of the place-name from which the surname is derived, this is not simply "corruption", but is explicable in terms of linguistic changes. There are brief but useful discussions of surnames compounded from place-names with the addition of the suffixes -man, -son, and -er, and on the effects of folk etymology on surnames. There is also an appendix which lists a large number of the final elements to be found in surnames derived from English place-names, with examples of the surnames involved. Though there is much material on the origins and evolution of surnames derived from place-names in the work of Reaney, Bardsley, and others, Dr. Forster is the first to treat fully the linguistic influences which were operative. In so doing he has explored the origins of many individual surnames, and his book will be for the future a very useful work of reference for all those interested in the history of English surnames.

Dr. Forster's method has been to compare the modern forms of surnames, as given in printed works from about 1880 onwards, with both present-day and earlier place-name forms. He does not usually attempt to trace a continuous history for surnames, either by citing a series of forms found at various periods for any one name, or by tracing the pedigrees of families bearing the surnames under discussion, and showing how the families' hereditary surnames underwent changes. In general, the method employed gives rise to few difficulties, but there are a few instances in which it leads to statements on the origins of surnames about which there may be reservations. The surname Dexter, for example, is derived by Dr. Forster from the place-name Exeter; Dexter, however, is usually taken to be an occupational name, and most early instances are from Essex, Suffolk, and the East Midlands, an area distant from Exeter. Similarly the surname Scrivener is said to be derived from the place-name Scriven, an origin which is not proven. Some other cases could be given, but there are but a small proportion of the names discussed by Dr. Forster where there seem to be grounds for disputing the origins he gives.

RICHARD MCKINLEY

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editor and Editorial Board are grateful to the University of Hull for generously providing facilities for the production of NOMINA and to the Department of English in the same institution for many kinds of help. Special thanks are due to the following: Professor Arthur Pollard (English Department), Mrs. Gillian Cowper (Secretary to the English Department, who did the typing), Mr. Colin Rush (University Administration), Mrs. Betty Brundrett (who did the printing), Miss Helen Parker (who set the inside front and back covers), and Mr. Gary Sargeant (who assisted with the design of the front cover). Dr. O.E. Manasse gave his kind permission to use the cover photograph of part of an estate map of Ashendon, Bucks, dated 1641.