

ELIZABETH RAJEC, The Study of Names in Literature: A Bibliography, K.G. Saur Publishing Inc.: New York, 1978, xii + 261 pp. No price stated.

Students of literary onomastics now have a valuable research-aid in Elizabeth Rajec's bibliography, the most comprehensive so far produced and the first stage, its author assures us, of her project to provide an even fuller compilation. The present volume aims to reflect the width and variety of literary name-studies: it includes English and non-English authors, and its entries embrace studies in book- and article-form, authors' comments on their use of names, reviews, and a selection of general reference sources. A spot-check on the listing for Chaucer and Shakespeare reveals that there is also variety-in-depth, accurate transcription, and reference to studies published as recently as 1977. Minor complaints would be that there are one or two surprising omissions in the choice of authors (Thackeray is an example) and that the book's annotations can be disappointingly perfunctory, often merely summarising what is quite evident in the title of a study. A more serious complaint is that there is little initial attempt to set out the principles upon which the selection of items depends - so that we are left to speculate for ourselves upon the choice of authors who merit inclusion. As for the book's apparatus, it is useful without being fussy: the main listings are arranged by author in a single alphabetical sequence, followed by a detailed subject index. In most ways, then, the author makes good her claim to have provided 'a strong first step' towards a fully comprehensive bibliography of literary onomastics. One looks forward with anticipation to Elizabeth Rajec's subsequent steps in this direction.

OWEN KNOWLES

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

- Coghlan, Ronan, Irish Christian Names, Johnston & Bacon: London, 1979.
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- Handley-Taylor, Geoffrey, Pogg: being a fragmentary key to that elusive place together with some brief observations on the gentle art of pogging, published by the author, 1980, BCM Box 8455, London WC1V 6XX.
- JønsjØ, Jan, Studies on Middle English Nicknames: I, Compounds, Lund Studies in English 55: Lund, 1979.
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A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

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