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REVIEWS

STAFFAN WIKLUND, *Vätmarksord i Lulemålen. En ordgrupp sedd ur informant- och intervjuarperspektiv*. Sweden, 1992. 220 pp., no price stated. (ISBN 91-86372-24-6)

Staffan Wiklund's book deals with the various terms for wetlands which occur in the dialect of the region around Luleå in the north of Sweden, seen from the perspective of informants and interviewer. It is a doctoral thesis but the text successfully combines academic rigour with the type of varied illustration and comment which makes a book accessible to a wider audience.

The opening chapters clearly set out the author's purpose and describe the material studied, the informants and their background in terms of age and milieu, as well as the interviewing and other techniques used in the course of research. This part of the book is of particular interest to researchers, whether they be onomasticians, ethnologists or anthropologists, who use oral investigative techniques and who might wish to make comparisons between the methods used by Wiklund in the north of Sweden and their own methods employed elsewhere. Wiklund quotes an extract from Katherine Nelson which will strike a chord with many researchers in this field: 'Making sense, then, is a never-ending problem involving context, concept, and culture, for the child as well as the adult. To share meaning on any particular occasion requires that one share context, world knowledge, and knowledge of the language system with communicative partners.' (Wiklund, 27) People trying to make sense of the landscape by describing very precisely what there is to be seen often stray into the imprecise borderland between common noun and place-name, and Wiklund has some very useful comments to make on the relationship between the two. The dialect material used in the volume as a whole derives from the dialect and place-name archives in Umeå and Uppsala Universities, in addition to the author's own recordings from his forty-three informants.

The chapter on agrarian history and physical geography is fascinating and it is to be regretted that the illustrations are not in colour. The reader certainly realises the extent of the flooding which gives rise to the various wetland terms when looking at two photographs taken in 1991 which show a house on an island in a substantial lake in mid-May and the same house in a luxuriant meadow dotted with wild flowers two months later in July. Archival material recorded from informants in the early years of the twentieth century emphasises that this was no earthly paradise; life was hard and demanding in the wetlands, where bog-skis were required footwear and the feet were never dry from very early morning to night. It is not surprising, in such an environment, that Wiklund

notes several words for different types of bog or swamp (*blötmyra*, *snottermyra*, *surmyra*, *mossamyra*, *rismyra*) or places in a bog (*myrhals*, *myrpott*, *myrpöl*) and some terms which describe the occasional escape from the all-encompassing water, such as *bänk* 'a bench, or raised piece of ground'. The beach, as well as the wetlands, is an important resource area and various terms are recorded which reflect that usefulness.

There follows the core of the book in which wetland terms are listed and discussed. Comments from informants are included and give an interesting picture of the way in which the terms are regarded by users. The terms are then analysed according to their familiarity to informants, ranging from words which are known to and used by all the informants to words which are not recognised as appellatives in the dialect. A concentrated study of three semantically related dialect terms—*drävj*, *dröla* and *dövel*—is interesting because it introduces comparative material from outside the study area. Wiklund suggests that all three of these words have the meaning 'marshy place', but there are local differences in meaning, and this is also a scenario which will be familiar to many place-name scholars who have tried to sift through the apparently infinitesimal, but locally very significant, differences in meaning between descriptive terms used by fluent dialect speakers. Eliciting semantic features with the help of these dialect speakers is by no means easy, as Wiklund found, and he abandoned the attempt and turned to the landscape to test the relationship between words and referents, asking informants to identify a place to which the word would refer. Not surprisingly, he found that this proved straightforward in the case of certain terms but, for others, there was no unambiguous connection between word and landscape.

Wiklund's book rewards close reading and, from this reviewer's point of view, one of the main points of interest was the close parallels between this rural area of northern Sweden and the far north of Scotland, in terms of how place-names link to the landscape. The same very close relationship between place-name user and terrain can be detected, and the comments of Wiklund's informants are reminiscent of many comments made by informants in parts of northern Scotland, or other areas where cultivation is hampered by latitude and, therefore, by climate and precipitation. One is constantly reminded, while reading this book, of the importance of relating place-names to their locations and to the people who use the names.

DOREEN J. WAUGH

GEORGE REDMONDS, *Surnames and Genealogy: a New Approach*. New England Historic Genealogical Society: Boston, Massachusetts, 1997. xviii + 292 pp., 7 maps, 6 charts, 39 illustrations. Paperback, no price stated. (ISBN 0-88082-052-7)

For the last forty years genealogists have relied on P. H. Reaney's *Dictionary of British Surnames* for accurate etymologies of modern family names. Dr Redmonds' book argues that this trust has to a significant extent been misplaced. Reaney's method was to deduce origins of modern names from a random collection of Middle English bynames whose genealogical connections with the modern names had not been demonstrated. His etymologies took little account of the prosopographical contexts in which name forms occurred and largely ignored the linguistic transformations that took place in surnames between the fifteenth and the nineteenth centuries. By contrast, the underlying thesis of *Surnames and Genealogy* is that every family name has a particular origin and a unique history.

Where Reaney's approach was general and narrowly linguistic, Redmonds' 'new approach' is particular and multidisciplinary, tracing the history and spellings of each name through precisely localised contexts—onomastic, social, prosopographical, linguistic and so on. The local nature of such research is, as Redmonds recognises, both a strength and a limitation. The power of this book lies in Redmonds' unrivalled knowledge of the surname histories of one area, the West Riding of Yorkshire, and he is fully aware that the problems he uncovers in that rich material are not necessarily typical of surname histories in other regions of England. Nevertheless, the methods he uses sometimes reveal such startlingly different origins from those asserted (or rather guessed at) by Reaney that there can be no doubt of the superior quality of the methodology itself. For example, the West Riding surnames *Stringer* and *Stringfellow*, which looked to Reaney to be two different names, originally denoting 'bowstring-maker' and 'strong fellow' respectively, are shown to derive from synonymous occupational terms signifying 'worker at a string-hearth or iron-making furnace'. Similarly, *Gaukroger* is not what it appears to be, 'awkward or clumsy Roger', as explained by Reaney, but a toponymic surname referring to a minor place-name, *Gaukrocher* ('cuckoo crag') in Sowerby.

The multidisciplinary approach, with its emphasis on the local and the personal or familial nature of surname histories, is not in itself new, for it was pioneered by Eilert Ekwall in his studies of the names of medieval Londoners. Though Reaney knew Ekwall's work, he seems neither to have had the time nor the temperament to follow such a painstaking model in compiling his dictionary. More recently the approach has been advocated again by the late Cecily Clark

and by the present writer, so I very much welcome Redmonds' independent and thoroughly convincing vindication of the method in relation to the surnames of the West Riding. Moreover, Redmonds has broken new ground by extending use of the method into the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, so that it has for the first time been fully incorporated into modern genealogical research. Here at last is a book that shows exactly how some modern surnames developed from their actual medieval originals.

At the heart of the method is the identification of aliases, for they enable Redmonds to connect different name forms and thus establish a correct basis for an etymology. For example, medieval aliases prove that the Yorkshire surname *Pawson* is derived from a pet form of *Paul* and not from an Old English word for 'peacock', as Reaney thought, while sixteenth- and seventeenth-century aliases in parish registers show how *Wolfenden* (alluding to a small place in Rossendale, Lancs.) was transformed into *Ovenden* (as if alluding to Ovenden in the West Riding) and into *Woffendall* and *Ufendall*, which give the misleading appearance of being different surnames derived from a place-name ending in *-dale*. In a most useful chapter on 'Linguistic Development of Surnames' and in several appendices listing additional illustrative material, Redmonds shows that what happened to *Wolfenden* was typical of many Yorkshire surnames in the post-medieval period. Names no longer associated with their etymons came to be mispronounced, misheard, mis-spelled, confused with other names or re-formed into 'new' names through popular etymologising. Aliases, whether explicit or inferred from context, also provide Redmonds with evidence for other kinds of surname variation—different forms of the same patronymic, for instance, alternative surnames borne by criminals and by bastards, and post-medieval bynames and nicknames which themselves sometimes became hereditary surnames.

In the light of such findings Reaney's *Dictionary* looks increasingly fallible, and Redmonds' invitation to genealogists to follow his own approach is persuasively made. The method is a challenging one, however, and the linguistic aspect is going to pose considerable problems for those with no linguistic training. Redmonds himself is linguistically competent enough for his own purposes, though some imprecision and confusion are noticeable in the chapter on 'Linguistic Development of Surnames'. The section headed 'Spelling' sometimes confuses variations in spelling with variations in pronunciation or morphology. I suspect, too, that some variants may be spurious, arising from editorial misinterpretations of ambiguous letter forms. The 'letter' *l* is said to have been 'vocalized internally' in instances like *Dalkyns* alias *Dakyns* (dated 1584, pp. 127–28), though in reality, if *Dalkyns* is not an error for *Dakyns*, it would be a reverse spelling of *Dawkyns*, of which *Dakyns* was a common

monophthongised variant. The pairing *Salkeld* alias *Sawghwell* (1594), listed without comment in a subsection labelled 'Final "t" and "d"' (p. 127), needs explaining. Is *lk* a misreading of secretary hand *w* or has there been an exchange of *keld* and *well*? *Bickers* alias *Vicars* (1547) is wrongly ascribed to an 'interchange in Yorkshire of voiced and unvoiced consonants' (p. 130). It might reflect acoustic confusion of two voiced labials or simply be a misreading of secretary hand *v* as *b*. Instances of doubtful analysis fortunately do not affect any of Redmonds' etymological or genealogical conclusions but the prospect of those with no linguistic training pursuing this kind of research is a worrying one. Where explicit aliases are concerned, inaccuracies in the analysis would usually prove inconsequential for the tracing of the variant name forms, but where the aliases have to be inferred or deduced one must have an appropriate model of linguistic change with which to make connections between different name forms. If genealogists inadvertently make false connections between unrelated names, and thus justify discarding an etymology of Reaney's, family-name research will be worse off than before.

Redmonds is right, therefore, to emphasise that genealogists who adopt the new approach will have to acquire linguistic skills. This is a tall order for the general run of family historians, however, and I wonder how Redmonds envisages these skills being obtained. It is a pity that this stimulating book will leave many genealogists not knowing how to get help, for it offers them no guidance on relevant onomastic and linguistic literature, courses or organisations (such as our own Society for Name Studies). Its scholarly apparatus is limited to a two-part bibliography whose onomastic references are strictly specific to Redmonds' own West Riding researches. There is no mention of any publications concerned with linguistic description and analysis (such as H. C. Wyld's *History of Modern Colloquial English*, which is especially relevant to surname variation). Nor is the bibliography up-to-date. The edition of Reaney's *Dictionary of British Surnames* cited there is the first (of 1958, in its second impression of 1961), but genealogists should be advised to use the third edition of 1995 (retitled *A Dictionary of English Surnames*), which has many revisions and additions by R. M. Wilson, or better still the latest edition of 1997, which has an appendix by David Hey on 'Locating the Home of a Family Name'.

These points of concern in no way detract from Redmonds' achievement nor from the validity of his case for the new approach. It is an outstanding contribution to the history of English surnames. With his cogent marshalling of the evidence and his lively, lucid style, Redmonds has produced a fascinating and enlightening book that deserves to be compulsory reading not just for genealogists but for all students of English surnames.

PETER McCLURE

GEORGE BRODERICK, *Placenames of the Isle of Man*, Vol. 2 (Sheading of Michael: Kirk Michael, Ballaugh and Jurby), Max Niemeyer Verlag: Tübingen, 1995. xi + 301 pp., DM 218 (paperback) (ISBN 3-484-40130-3)

This is the second of a series which will run to seven volumes when complete. In 1994 the first volume appeared covering the Sheading of Glenfaba (parishes of Kirk Patrick, Kirk German and Peel). The first volume consisted of 376 pages, and retailed at a cool DM 236. At this rate it will cost around £700 for the whole set—a ludicrous amount for seven fairly slim paperbacks. These volumes deserve better.

The Isle of Man is divided up into six sheadings (an old administrative unit, whose name derives from Old Norse *séttungr* 'sixth part'), each of these sheadings comprising three parishes, ideal volume-sized areas. The seventh volume, the publisher's leaflet informs us, will be concerned with the town of Douglas, the island's capital, and a detailed linguistic commentary on the language and content of Manx place-names. It is to be hoped that it will also include a full index of place-names dealt with in it and the preceding six volumes. The material is arranged alphabetically parish by parish, and since the individual volumes do not have an index of place-names (only of elements), this means that the user has to know not only the sheading, but also the parish of every place-name that he or she wants to look up. The usefulness of these volumes to anyone who does not have an intimate knowledge of the geography of the Isle of Man will therefore be considerably reduced without such an index. While on the subject of finding one's way around the volumes, might I suggest that in future running headers are used, so that the reader knows immediately in which parish he or she is at any given place in the book. A model in this, as in so much else, would be *The Place-Names of Northern Ireland* series produced by the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project.

Both volumes which have so far appeared contain the same thirty-one-page Introduction (pp. ix-xi). This covers all important aspects of Manx toponymics, including three pages on land division and tenure, and an impressively detailed and very useful thirteen-page section titled 'Aspects of Manx grammar relevant to place-names'.

From the Introduction we also learn about the background to the project, undertaken with admirable single-mindedness by Broderick. Three-year funding from the Leverhulme Trust, between 1990 and 1993, achieved an immense amount: interviews with informants were conducted throughout the whole of the island with around 200, mainly elderly, people, forty-three of whom were dead by 1995; completion of the collection of place-name material from all pre-sixteenth century documentation, as well as all map and field-name material, for

the whole island; and the extraction, compilation and analysis of place-name material from all relevant documentary sources for the Sheading of Glenfaba, the subject of the first volume.

Following the Introduction we have a useful page-sized map of the Isle of Man, with scrappily drawn, pre-1796-parish and sheading divisions, and a poor key—for the money that Niemeyer Verlag is charging for these volumes, a more professionally drawn map might have been expected. This is followed by a page-sized map of the sheading of Michael, with some of the main place-names shown—apparently chiefly quarterlands. This map can be used only for general orientation, since for the parish of Jurby, for example, only twenty-three names are shown on the map, while approximately 350 separate headnames are dealt with in the text.

Broderick's scholarship is of a high quality, and inspires confidence in his analysis of individual place-names, even when this reaches different conclusions from those of previous scholars. However, it must be said that there is a certain amount of unnecessary confusion in the lay-out of the material, a confusion which is more than merely annoying. There is little consideration given to anyone who is not thoroughly familiar with the parishes in question—and even those who are might be left somewhat puzzled from time to time. Cross-referencing between headnames is seriously flawed; there is no consistent and easily recognisable indication given as to whether or not a name is obsolete, and grid references are given only sporadically.

Let us start, however, where anyone has to start when looking at the toponymy of the Isle of Man, that is with treens and quarterlands. These basic land-units are clearly explained by Broderick in his Introduction (pp. xiii-xiv), with full bibliographical referencing. The treen—possibly deriving from Gaelic *tír uinge* 'ounceland'—was the basic administrative building-block of Man going back to the earliest historical period. Each treen was divided into four quarterlands, each quarterland very roughly averaging some ninety acres (excluding common grazing), which gives some idea of the size of an average treen. Although it is nowhere explicitly stated, treen-names seem often to have fallen out of use, since the administrative unit underlying them is now obsolete. Quarterlands, on the other hand, are represented by many modern farms. This may be the reason for Broderick's decision, indicated in his 'Editorial Policy' section on p. xxxviii, to give treen-names in their earliest attested forms, which, for the three parishes of Michael, Ballaugh and Jurby, date from 1515. This is a very important editorial decision and needs to be clearly highlighted somewhere at the beginning of the lists of parish-names, not buried in the text of the Introduction. Anyone who misses it will be thoroughly confused. Even once spotted, and understood, it still leads to confusion, not only because it is

introducing a diachronic element into a list of names which is otherwise striving to give the most modern form of a place-name; but also because a treen-name can be the same as a quarterland-name. This means that early forms of the same place-name will appear under different headnames. To take just one example: the modern farm- or quarterland-name **Ballaterson** in Ballaugh parish appears as such in the list of headnames in the parish. However, it also functions as a treen-name, and as such it appears in the list as **Balyterson**, which is the 1515-form of the name. It could quite justifiably be argued that these are different names, usually with the treen-name derived from the quarterland-name, and Broderick is quite right to try to distinguish them in some way. However, as far as an analysis of the name itself is concerned, **Ballaterson** and **Balyterson** represent the same name, and early forms of the latter can often help to illuminate the origin of the former.¹ To distinguish them in this way means that frequently the two names are pages apart, with important early forms split between the two entries; furthermore the reader can be left wondering whether, for example, **Ballaskyr**, a quarterland-name in Kirk Michael parish, is really the same as the treen-name **Balystere**.

Regarding the lack of cross-referencing, let us take one example amongst many: if we look at the headname **Aryhorkell**, Kirk Michael parish (MI), we learn that it is a treen-name, and that it contains the Manx Gaelic generic *eary* 'sheiling' + the Old Norse personal name *Thorkell*. There is nothing to indicate where it might lie, or whether or not it is still in use. It is only through Kneen (for whom see more below) that we learn that it is now called **Druidale**. On looking up **Druidale** in Broderick there is no reference to **Aryhorkell**, just as there is no reference to **Druidale** under **Aryhorkell**. However, under **Druidale** there are several references in the early forms to a place written variously as *Airey Kelly* and *Eary Kelly*. Since this shared the same generic as **Aryhorkell**, I decided to follow it up, and found it under **Eary Kelly**, where I learn that the specific element is the personal name Kelly, and that one William Kelly held the land in the late eighteenth century. But I also learn that it was 'formerly called Aryhorkell qv. Now Druidale' (p. 69). So now, after a considerable amount of searching, which even involved looking at another book (Kneen), I know that **Aryhorkell** is a name which is no longer current, that it was the former name of **Druidale**, and was also called **Eary Kelly**. This is important information

¹ Broderick's etymology of this place-name as "cross farm", i.e. on route between A and B' (p. 124) is much to be preferred over Kneen's 'farm of the cross or crozier' (Kneen 1928, 456). Unfortunately Broderick does not speculate on what the route might be.

which should have been included clearly under both **Aryhorkell** and **Druidale**. The cross-referencing system has quite simply broken down—or rather, is practically non-existent. Incidentally, from the **Druidale** entry I get an eight-figure National Grid Reference (SC36798877), and so can locate **Aryhorkell** (now obsolete) in the hills in the eastern corner of the parish.

When cross-references are given, they are not always helpful. In the parish of Kirk Michael there is listed a place called **Ballagannel**, after which are the initials QL, signifying 'quarterland'. As usual there is no indication as to whether this name is still in use. In fact the two early forms (from 1641 and 1643) show that it is another name for **Cammall**. When we look up **Cammall**, not only is there no indication that it had (or still has?) an alternative name, and there is no reference at all to **Ballagannel**, but the forms of **Cammall** which appear under **Ballagannel** are not even listed. The reader is left to wonder just what is going on, and confidence in the compiler is undermined. A short explanatory note would have been highly appropriate here, not to say reassuring, and a cross-reference from **Cammall** to **Ballagannel**, as well as the '**Ballagannel** alias **Cammall**' forms under the headname **Cammell**, essential.

Inevitably Broderick's work must be compared with that of Kneen, mentioned above, who produced a comprehensive survey of the place-names of the Isle of Man in six volumes brought out between 1925 and 1928. Broderick has added considerably to the names included in Kneen, especially from precious oral sources, and has greatly improved on the linguistic discussion of derivations. In the Introduction, in an admirable discussion of sources, Broderick has an important note on some of the sources used by Kneen. For example, the Lord's Composition Book (LCB) of 1703, which Kneen made extensive use of, is in fact an imperfect copy made c.1760. Broderick has therefore wisely abandoned this, and has used instead the original LCB of 1704. Such careful source work is of course vital in assessing how much or little we can trust individual forms.

Every name in Kneen seems to be in Broderick, although it is sometimes only thanks to Kneen's references that they can be traced in Broderick: for example in Kneen we have the headname 'Brecknagh' MI, which Kneen locates on the lands of Bishop's Court (Kneen 1928, 435). Under the headname 'Bishop's Demesne' in Broderick (51), we do in fact find this name as a field-name. Where Kneen does not locate a headname within a parish, and if Broderick has not given it headname status, then we are toiling—I still have not located Kneen's Ballaling MI in Broderick, and am unsure whether Kneen's 'Bolly Gawldry' MI (p. 434) is the same as Broderick's 'Bwoillee-Ghorley' MI (p. 53).

There are other gripes and girns, all the more annoying because of the

overall excellence of the work. The way that historical forms are handled could be greatly improved. The splitting of these forms under the (modern) quarterland-name and the (sixteenth-century) treen-name has already been mentioned. Historical forms need to be clearly signalled, either through italics or through giving each one a line of its own (or both). These volumes do neither. A plethora of abbreviations is inevitable in a work such as this, but when the reader is confronted with four different sections of abbreviations, covering eight and a half pages, the heart sinks. It would have been much kinder to have drawn up a single list of abbreviations, although parishes and towns could appear both as separate sections (as they do on p. 1) and integrated into one single list. And I was able to add KK for 'kirk', PN for 'place-name'—but what is BB on p. 263?

Notwithstanding all the above, George Broderick's meticulous scholarship and collecting methods are most impressive: if continued in the same vein, the completed series will justifiably become the definitive work on Manx toponymy for a very long time to come.

SIMON TAYLOR

YULIAN KONSTANTINOV, GULBRAND ALHAUG, *Names, Ethnicity, and Politics. Islamic Names in Bulgaria 1912-1992*, Tromsø Studies in Linguistics 15, Oslo 1995, 132 pp., no price stated.

This is a most interesting little book dealing with the current naming strategies of the Pomaks, the Bulgarian muslim minority, after a century of renaming campaigns and the 1990 changes in Bulgarian name laws. It is based on field studies carried out by an international research team in 1990-92 in nine villages in northern Bulgaria.

Bulgaria, of course, has only been an independent state since 1878. Before that for 500 years it was under Turkish rule. The Bulgars themselves are a Turkish people by origin who adopted Slav speech and Christianity in the ninth century. Their tortuous political, religious and ethnic history led in 1912 to a series of nationalistic renaming campaigns. The various minorities—the Turks, the Pomaks whose language is Bulgarian of the Rhodope region but religion Islam, the Roma or Gypsies—were forbidden to use Turkic-Arabic names. The ban was finally lifted in 1989 and this book looks at the phenomenon of name reversal. It is still a politically sensitive matter; in the 1992 census many Pomaks claimed Turkish as their native tongue. The data were subsequently invalidated in the light of this ethnically incorrect behaviour.

What is of primary interest to the onomast, however, is the theory and the concepts of the study. The Pomaks are still essentially a rural people proud of

their traditions and suspicious of town. On the other hand the varying demands of state bureaucracy and the attraction to the younger generation of the town as a place of work and wealth and of the icons of Western modernity have provided powerful destabilising influences. The thesis of the study is that in settled communities there is little anthroponymic creativity—traditional naming patterns are maintained. But in destabilised communities there is high creativity—naming conforms to a ruling influence, be it legal requirement, social prestige or image creation. This can lead to the use of more than one first name—one for the Out-Group (professional life, work, school, neighbours etc.), another for the In-Group (friends, relatives, parents, grand-parents). The strategies adopted by the minority group can be plotted on a grid which measures a name gradient—the kind of name or names used—against an administrative gradient—the context of situation from most to least formal. They turn out to range from extreme radical strategies—the use of a Turkish-Arabic or a Bulgarian name in *all* contexts—to various kinds of compromise—using different names in different contexts, using surnames or nick-names and, most interesting of all, adopting syncretic names which are neither overtly Turkish nor Bulgarian. So the once prestigious Turkish name *Osman* might be restricted to the In-Group and the newly-prestigious Bulgarian *Ognyan* used in the Out-Group; but a third alternative gaining popularity is the syncretic *Osi* with its overtones of modernity and similarity to influential western names such as Johnny, Suzy, Fifi etc. Choice of name to suit a ruling political, social, religious or nationalistic image is but the modern equivalent of the magic or optative or totemic naming of the past when names were given to help a child just survive (*Zhilko* 'to be alive'), be healthy (*Zdralko*) or be like the wolf (*Vulko*).

The study is clear and provides a good if occasionally repetitive account of the complex politico-ethnic background and of the problems of the field-work and its interpretation. There are detailed appendices. Neither the theory nor the methodology will be startlingly new to socio- or anthropologists. But there are issues and complexities and parallels here that the historian is usefully reminded of in studying the anthroponymy of past periods.

VICTOR WATTS

An Alphabetical Guide to the Language of Name Studies, compiled by Adrian Room. The Scarecrow Press, Inc.: Lanham, Md., and London, 1996. vii + 123 pp., no price stated.

This volume is very much what its title depicts it to be—a guide to the *language* of name studies. The 'dictionary' as it is termed runs from ABBREVIATED NAME to ZOOPHORIC NAME 'a name formed from the generic name of an animal' (e.g.

Hammy—strictly a ZOONYM). The vast majority of entries are terms in -NYM or derivatives thereof: MICROTOPYNYM 'the name of a natural or (less commonly) man-made object by a local community who live near it'→MICROTOPYNYMY; or in -NAME: e.g. COVER NAME 'a name assumed by an agent, spy etc., during a secret (covert) operation'. The appended Glossary of Greek and Latin Elements may often be found to be of more practical use than the dictionary itself.

Some entries are artificial and appear due to the author's sense of completeness, e.g. NAUTONYM 'a ship or boat name'; AILURONYM 'a cat name'; and PLUTONYM 'a type of ASTROTOPYNYM' or, more specifically presumably, 'a type of PLANETONYM', although we are told that 'in the early 1990s there were as yet no named features on Pluto'.

Omissions might arguably include the more exotic *noa term* (euphemism), but certainly the more fundamental *affix, lexical (meaning), semantic(s), specific (element), structure and syntax*. The compiler admits that some of the 'classical terminology may appear formidable' and that DEANTHROPONYMIZATION...is something of a mouthful', but access to such terminology is aided by copious cross references, e.g. for HORSE NAME see HIPPONYM, and for FLOWER NAME see ANTHOPERSONYM. The latter refers specifically to such forms as *Daisy* applied to people; there is no mention however of what the appropriate terms would be were it applied to a cow or to the weed itself. Definitely for the curious.

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Nominal value, V

by Ratoun

Straw[']s in the wind

It was reported on ITV's Teletext (24/7/98, p. 311) that Newham borough council in the former Greater London had agreed to the residents' request to name a street after the late Princess of Wales, but dropped the idea after Home Office officials indicated the Palace would not approve. Buckingham Palace issued a swift stiff cover-note to the effect that Her Majesty acts on advice from the Home Secretary. The BBC's Ceefax (p. 114) revealed that the name chosen would have been *Diana, Princess of Wales Avenue*. What would the local abbreviation of this monstrosity have been? Another Ceefax revelation (11/10/98, p. 108/1) was that there are to be new cities of Mercia, Kent and Anglia. We hope that these were misunderstood to be names rather than descriptors, and not correctly understood to be names. The same source declared that one new city would be named *Diana*, 'after the late Princess of Wales', in case you'd forgotten.

Benefice beanfeast

Father Jonathan Boston has been appointed priest-in-charge of the living of Litcham with Kempston, Lexham East, Lexham West, Mileham, Beeston-next-Mileham, Stanfield and Tittleshall with Godwick (Norwich), according to the *Spectator* (26/7/97, p. 9), this being the longest parish-name in the country. No room for the times of the services on the notice-board there. And the longest pub-name in the country, in case you want to know, is *The Old Thirteenth Cheshire Astley Volunteer Rifleman Corps Inn* in Stalybridge, Cheshire—unless you know better.

Saur point

The *New Scientist* went overboard on its letter page in issue 158/2134 (16/5/98, p. 54), printing a letter from Mark Robinson of Glossop, who followed early correspondence about people whose names sound like their jobs by recommending the study of Web addresses that sound like their contents. He noted that instead of visiting the New Mexico Museum of Natural History to hear the sounds made by dinosaurs, you could simply surf to www.nmmnh-abq.mus.nm.us/nmmnh/nmm.nh.html and read it out loud.

Found on any maps?

Arnold Kellett in *The Dalesman* (59/11, February 1998, p. 56) drew attention to some interesting local Yorkshire topographic words: *haeaf/heft* 'part of fell or moor apportioned to sheep' and *wesh-dub* 'pool made by damming a stream for sheep-washing'. In a later issue (60/2, May 1998), p. 36), he recorded *gairs* 'irregular sides of fields' (I wonder!), *fauf* 'fallow land', *twitchel* 'alley' and *lickin' 'oile* 'part of farm where food is prepared for the animals'.

They never made it

Names proposed for streets of late that really didn't get onto any maps include *Puffin Passage* and *Coot Court* (New Haven Terrace, Grimsby) and *Klingon Close* and *Warp Drive* (Southampton). Please watch your local planning office and report such non-developments to your Rat. *Skinner Close* (Maidenbower, Crawley, Sussex) was nipped in its proletarian little bud by the residents, who, with an extraordinary eye for novelty, came up with *Birchwood Close* instead ([Brighton] *Evening Argus* 21/1/97, p. 11). The comedian Frank Skinner was consulted on this usurpation, and suggested *Toffee-Nosed Avenue* instead—fair enough, though Mr Skinner has been heard to be more trenchantly frank on other occasions.

The Case is Altared

The incumbent of Altarnun (as it says on the maps), in Cornwall—one hesitates to say 'the Vicar of Altarnun' so soon after reading Daphne du Maurier's *Jamaica Inn*—appears to be having a one-man campaign to get the village known as *Altarnon* instead, on the [correct] grounds that it is named after St Nonn, mother of Dewi Sant. This is how the name appears in parish notices and magazines. Why not go the whole hog and Cornicize the first element to *alter*? That takes me, by that most wonderful channel of the rodentine intellect, free association, to *The Case Is Altered*, a pub on the A17 at Sutterton, Lincolnshire, sadly deprived of its Jonsonian resonances since its alterations by being called *The Case Has Altered*. So much for grammar-teaching!

More ratiocinations in the fullness of time.

RATOUN
School of Onymy
Namier University