

# SECTION IX -- NAMES (ONOMASTICS) -- TECHNICAL

## 3) Annotated Bibliography on Names (August XXI, April XXV)

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Policy Level: Informational

Intended Audience: All heralds and their clients

Abstract: List of books on names with opinionated advice as to their usefulness and applicability to the SCA.

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## BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON NAMES AND NAMING PRACTICES

Alison von Markheim & Eilis O'Boirne (April XXV)

Most of these books are not going to be available at your local bookstore. Name books, except for the unending supply of "Baby Name Books", are not considered to be of general interest by booksellers, and will have to be hunted down. Those marked with an asterisk may still be available new, if you hunt successfully or can find someone to order them for you. The majority will have to be bought used or gotten from the library. Never underestimate inter-library loan services. Another source of books on names is "Heraldry Today", a bookstore in London with a mail order service. Inquire of the Kingdom Herald about how to get on their mailing list, or to place an order with them when we do.

\* Attwater, Donald, The Penguin Dictionary of Saints, Penguin, 2nd Ed. 1983. This book, and Farmer noted below, are two good places to look for given names and are excellent for documenting them. As saints actually had lifetimes, dates are automatically included.

\* Bain, Robert, The Clans and Tartans of Scotland, Collins, 1953. Gives the Scots Gaelic spellings of many Scots names, and is often even correct. Includes a glossary of place name elements. Frequently found remaindered!

Barber, Rev. Henry, British Family Names, 2nd Ed. Gale Research Co., Detroit, 1968, reprint of 1903 edition. The scholarship is now a bit outdated, but there are some excellent lists of names, with dates.

\* Bardsley, Charles Wareing, A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames, Henry Frowde, London, 1901. This is one of the original scholarly works on names. Reaney (see below), has corrected and amplified these earlier efforts, but they are still very worthwhile. A reprint is available through Heraldry Today.

Bartrum, P.C., Early Welsh Genealogical Tracts, University of Wales Press, 1966. Reprints of period tracts, with extensive notes and footnotes. This book is not a tool for the novice, but one can document some interesting early Welsh given names.

\* Black, George F., The Surnames of Scotland, New York Public Library, 1947, 1982. A comprehensive study of Scottish surnames, including many that are no longer in use. It is liberally supplied with dates and covers names that originated in places outside Scotland but have been used there. It is also a good source for given names that eventually became surnames.

Browder, Sue, The New Age Baby Name Book, Warner Books, NY, 1974. This is a BAD book. It is also, unfortunately, widely available. Do not use this book for documentation, do not encourage anyone to even look at it for name ideas. Her research is sloppy and very inaccurate. Many names are simply pretty words taken from various languages, or are made up. Avoid this book.

\* Coughlan, Ronan et. al., Book of Irish Names: First, Family and Place Names, Sterling, NY, 1898. In spite of being both inexpensive and popular, this book is surprisingly accurate. It pretty much is what it says it is. The only thing to really watch out for is the Gaelic=English translations, which are more Victorian than real.

\* Cottle, Basil, The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames, Penguin, 1978. Mostly English surnames. It has a few dates, but can be used in conjunction with Reaney for research purposes.

Dauzat, Albert, Dictionnaire (tymologique des Nomes de Famille et Pr) noms de France, Larousse, Paris, 1951, 1987. If you can read even a little bit of French, this is an enormously valuable book which includes many dates for both given names and surnames. Recommended.

Davies, Trefor R., A Book of Welsh Names, Sheppard Press, 1952. Welsh given names, most of which have dates.

Dolan, J.R., English Ancestral Names, Potter, 1972. In large part drawn from Fransson (see below), but much more easily available. A good browsing book to give people who aren't sure what name they would like.

Dunkling, Leslie Alan, First Names First, Universe Books, 1977. While it doesn't have much on Medieval names, this book is very good for reverse documentation "if you suspect that a name is modern, here is the place to look it up to make sure." Has been remaindered in the past.

\* Scottish Christian Names, Johnston and Bacon, London, 1978. Dunkling's specialty is modern (post 1850) naming practices, and some most of the dates given in this book are not useful to us. However, most of the names are authentic and can be confirmed as period names in other sources. A good browsing book for someone who wants a Scottish name. I found my copy of this in a Scottish imports store.

\* and Gosling, William, The New American Dictionary of First Names (also published as "The Facts on File Dictionary of First Names" and "Everyman's Dictionary of First Names"), Signet/NAL, 1983. Again, there is rather a scarcity of dates in this readily available paperback, but it is generally reliable if it gives a date. It is really good for confirming that a name is modern.

\* Farmer, David Hugh, The Oxford Dictionary of Saints, Oxford University Press, 1983. A very good book about many of the Christian Saints, most of whom lived during our period. This is an excellent source for SCA names.

Fleck, Gere, (Geirr Bassi Haraldsson), The Old Norse Name, Studia Marklandica, 1977. The definitive book on Old Norse (Viking) names and naming practices. It is really only an overgrown pamphlet, but is invaluable. Should be back in print in 1991.

Fransson, Gustav, Middle English Surnames of Occupation, 1100-1350, Gleerup, Lund, 1935. Before the extensive section on occupational surnames, there are 50 pages on Middle English naming practice in general. Much of the information here is Dolan (cited above), but this book is a joy to anyone who has gotten seriously involved in name documentation.

Fucilla, Joseph G., Our Italian Surnames, Chandler's, Evanston IL, 1949. In spite of the silly title, this is a very exhaustive book about Italian surnames. Few actual dates are included, but Italian naming practice has been quite static for a long while, and most names in here are quite period.

\* Gruffudd, Heini, Welsh Names for Children, Y Lolfa, Talybont, Dyfed, 1980, 1987. This is actually a Welsh baby name book. It has some excellent ancient Welsh names, but also includes a liberal sprinkling of modern names derived from words and place names, which are not acceptable in the SCA. It is a cheap, handy volume, but must be used carefully.

\* Hanks, Patrick & Hodges, Flavia, A Dictionary of Surnames, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1988, 1989. This is a pricey, but very good general reference. They aren't as wonderful as would be ideal about dates, but this is one of the only books available that includes surnames from all over Europe. An extensive cross-index in the back makes it easy to use. Recommended.

\* A Dictionary of First Names, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1990. This book, by the same authors, is not as good or as useful as their surname book. However, if you do not have access to Yonge, it is a good place to start tracking down the language or origin of an unknown name.

Hook, J.N., Family Names, Collier, NY, 1982. This is a study of American surnames and the immigrants who brought them here. It is more of a book for reading than for research, but the section on Asian names is very useful.

Kaganoff, Benzion C., A Dictionary of Jewish Names and Their History, Schocken Books, NY, 1977. This book primarily covers Jewish surnames but has a small amount of information about given names, too. It has a brief history of Jewish naming practices in several cultures.

\* Kolatch, Alfred J., The Complete Dictionary of English and Hebrew First Names, Jonathan David Co., NY, 1984. If you are looking for a Hebrew given name to go with a surname from Kaganoff (above), this is a good place to find one. However, if the name is not Hebrew AND Biblical in origin, the general accuracy of this book is pretty low. Not recommended.

\* Loughead, Fiona Haines, Dictionary of Given Names, Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, 1981. Even though this is a hard-bound book with an authoritative-sounding title, it is a baby name book, pure and simple. If a name is documented from this book, we always double-check with a reputable source to see if the documentation is real or not. Not recommended.

MacLysaght, Edward, Guide to Irish Surnames, Helicon, 1965. A basic guide to Irish names, it includes the old Gaelic forms. And if the name you are looking for isn't in this book, try one of his other Irish surnames books, Irish Families or More Irish Families.

\* MacLysaght, Edward, Surnames of Ireland (this is almost the same as the book above, but is still in print.)

Matthews, C.N., English Surnames, Scribners, 1966. This is a fascinating book, full of information on English naming practices, most of it relevant to SCA period. It includes a list of English surnames derived from women's names (matronymics), as well as lists of period given names that have formed surnames, of nicknames that have become surnames and of occupational surnames.

\* Morgan, T.J. & Morgan, Prys, Welsh Surnames, University of Wales Press, Cardiff, 1985. This is an excellent and scholarly treatment of the subject, and is useful for documenting many given names as well. Recommended.

Neeson, Eoin, The Book of Irish Saints, Mercier, 1967. A handy little book with many odd spellings. Useful for documentation.

Nurnberg, Maxwell and Rosenblum, Morris, What to Name Your Baby, Collier, 1962. An excellent baby-name book, as such things go. Clearly identifies those names that are surnames or derived therefrom, gives some dates, and generally is quite accurate! If you find a copy used, pick it up.

\* Corrin, Donnchadh & Maquire, Fidelma, Gaelic Personal Names, Lilliput Press, Dublin, 1981, 1990. Thank heavens that this has been reprinted. Even though it has few actual dates, the entire book is a compendium of period Irish Gaelic names. This is one of the best books on the subject.

\* O'Neill, P.G., Japanese Names, John Weatherhill Inc., NY, 1972, 1984. This book may be pricey, but it is worth it. This is simply the best available book on Japanese Names; family names, given names and some place names. Recommended.

\* Reaney, P.H., Origin of English Surnames, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1969. Amusing and scholarly book on how many English surnames developed. Very useful for general research on how naming practices evolved. Found new occasionally in paperback.

\* Dictionary of British Surnames, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1976. Reaney's Scholarly research in an easy-to-use dictionary form covering all of the British Isles. Probably one of the most useful books available for English names. Given names can often be documented from this book if they ever were used as surnames. Highly recommended.

Rule, Lareina, Name Your Baby, Bantam, 1963. A very typical baby-name book; inaccurate, fanciful, inconsistent and totally devoid of dates. Do NOT use this book!

Selton, Bo, The Anglo-Saxon Heritage in Middle English Personal Names, East Anglia 1100-1399, Gleeurp, Lund, 1972. Very useful for illustrating the mutations dithematic names can undergo. Primarily useful to the serious student of naming practices.

Searle, William George, Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1897. This is THE book about Anglo-Saxon names and naming practice. It is widely available in libraries.

U.S. Department of Justice, Foreign Versions, Variations, and Diminutive of English Names, U.S. Gov't Printing Office, 1973. A surprisingly useful pamphlet put out by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

\* Withycombe, E.G., The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names, Oxford University Press, 1977. The most authoritative book on the subject available. Dates are cited and many variations are given. If you can get only one name book, this is the one to get.

\* Woulfe, Patrick, Irish Names for Children, Gill and Macmillan, 1967. This slim volume is full of authentic Irish Gaelic given names, including old spellings and some dates. It is an excellent reference for anyone who wants an Irish name and it also gives the genitive form for those who want to form patronymics or matronymics from the given name.

Yonge, Charlotte, History of Christian Names, MacMillan, 1884. (Yes, 1884!) This pioneering work on given names is LONG out of print but is still one of the best sources for English and non-English names available. Just a photocopy of the index in the front is a valuable resource.

**ARTICLES ON NAMES IN  
SCA HERALDIC SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS**

The following articles on names and naming practice have been published in the Proceedings of the various Heraldic Symposia that have occurred in the last several years. Although there were two Ysgithrian Heraldic Symposia in 1973 and 1976, there were no articles on names in either book of Proceedings. Most of these references are still available from one source or another, ask the senior heraldic staff for more information.

Caerthan Heraldic Symposium, ed. Alison von Markheim, Aten College of Heraldry, 1981. Includes of Note:

Period Practice in English Surnames by Louise-Phillipe Mitouard - A quick, and not-too-accurate look at English naming practices.

Some Books on Personal Names by Baldwin of Erebor (who was already considered knowledgeable on the subject) - An excellent critical bibliography and one that should be consulted by anyone serious about name research.

Anglo-Saxon Personal Names and Scandinavian Personal Names in Domesday Book by Aelfwynn Gyrthesdohtor - Two excellent articles taken from primary sources on early English names. They are very, very useful to the browser and to the consultant.

An Abbreviated Introduction to the Elvish Language for the Instruction of Heraldry by Ataniel Unesse (aka Ruth Noel) - this was the piece to be used in conjunction with her "Languages of Tolkien's Middle Earth" for correct formation of Elvish Names, back in the time when we allowed them.

The Meridian Heraldic Symposium, ed. by Regin Bran Haradson, Barony of South Downs, 1982. Includes of Note:

On Italian Names by Giovanni Clarenza - A quick look at period Italian personal names.

Caer Maer Heraldic Symposium, ed. by Vuong Manh, Richmond VA, 1983. Includes of Note:

Choosing a Spanish Name by Nige of the Cleftlands - On period Spanish naming practice.

Period English Surnames Derived from Usage Associated with the Armourer's Guild by Tamora Valcon Bridge - Just what it says it is.

French Names and Naming Practices by Nige of the Cleftlands - Ditto.

"A Bibliography of References on Romance Language Names" by Nige of the Cleftlands - This editor liked descriptive article titles.

Proceedings of the Fasachian Heraldic Symposium, ed., by Gustav Athanasius von Hausenstadt, Barony of Loch Salann, 1984. Includes of Note:

A Brief Survey of Japanese Names and Name Elements by Aelfric Bernson of Westbrook - A brief but confusing look at Japanese names.

German Names of Rheinland-Pfalz and Westfalen Provinces by Marilyn Knighton - A survey of given names, with some information on naming practices.

Japanese Names and Related Topics by Morimoto Koryu and friends - Includes personal and surnames, restricted names and a pronouncing guide.

Analecta Aspilogica Vol II: Essays on Heraldry and Nomenclature, ed. by Alisoun MacCoul of Elphane, Free Trumpet Press, 1985. Includes of Note:

Medieval Place Names in Kreis Darmstadt-Dreiburg by Sovny Barcsi Jnos - Names of cities, castles etc., that were used in period.

Proceedings of the West Kingdom Known World Heraldic Symposium, ed. Alison von Markheim, Free Trumpet Press West, 1986. Includes of Note:

Arabic Naming Practices by Da'ud ibn Auda - Not only a how-to on Arabic names, but it includes extensive names lists as well.

Russian Names Mad Understandable by Tatiana Nikolaevna Tumanova - A short guide to constructing a correctly formed Russian name, with short lists of Russian/English equivalents.

Herald's Proceedings: Caidan Heraldic Symposium and Scribe's Conclave, ed. Bruce Draconarius of Mistholme, Free Trumpet Press West, 1989. Includes of Note:

Welsh Names Formation by Keridwen o'r Mynydd Gwyrdd (Keridwen ferch Morgan Glasfryn, aka Tangwystyl verch Morgant Glasvryn) - a quick, but rather comprehensive, look through how Welsh names were formed, and some information on Welsh grammar.

Welsh Compound Given Names *ibid* - an exploration into the possibility that many Welsh given names were compounds, and that other names could be created from the same pool of elements.

Feminine Given Names from the Italian Renaissance: Choosing a Introductory Selection by Anebairne MacPharlane of Arrochar - a listing of documented Italian women's names from the 14th to 17th C., from various sources.

Italian Personal Names by Rhian Lyth of Blackmoor Vale - a list of names found in two historical documents.

The One Hundred Most Beautiful Names of God by Mustapha al-Muhaddith ibn al-Sqaat - a listing of Arabic names derived from the names of God.

Arabic Personal Names from the Futuwwah *ibid* - a list of given and surnames from al-Sulami's 'Futuwwah', or 'The Book of Sufi Chivalry'.

"Western European Names of the Thirteenth Century" by Arval Benicour - A list of given names taken from 'Chronicles of the Crusades', containing two sources written in the 13th C.

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