

## **Suggested abbreviations for journals and other works (new to YWES) discussed below:**

<b>JLO</b>	<i>Journal of Literary Onomastics</i>
<b>JSNS</b>	<i>Journal of Scottish Name Studies</i> (this was incorrectly cited in Callary's YWES review as 'JSPNS' which he misattributed as the ' <i>Journal of the Scottish Place Name Society</i> '; this is a misunderstanding on a couple of levels a) that the actual title of the journal is the <i>Journal of Scottish Name Studies</i> ; b) that the journal (referred to herein as JSNS) is independent of the Scottish Place-Name Society.
<b>FaNBI</b>	<i>The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland</i> (the editors use this abbreviation themselves in the work's Introduction, hence its adoption here)
<b>NomAf</b>	<i>Nomina Africana</i>
<b>PoO</b>	<i>Problems of Onomastics (Voprosy Onomastiki)</i>
<b>QRIO</b>	<i>Quaderni di Rivista Italiana di Onomastica</i>

## **8. Onomastics**

The years 2015 and 2016 saw the publication of a number of important and instructive books, monographs, and other works by established and emerging scholars of onomastics. 2016 in particular was exceptionally fruitful, with the culmination of the Family Names of the United Kingdom (FaNUK) project, under the direction of Professor Richard Coates at the University of the West of England. The impressive four-volume *Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*, the work of many hands, is accompanied by a website available through Oxford Reference Online, and while its £400 price tag makes it an unlikely purchase for the casual buyer, the availability of the text online should enable many researchers to gain access through public and academic libraries. Not many academic publishers will currently take on works of this scale, and Oxford University Press deserves due credit for supporting this work, which took place under the auspices of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (2010-16). Onomastics also joined the growing number of sub-disciplines recognised by the Oxford Handbooks in Linguistics series, with Professor Carole Hough's edited volume, *The Oxford Handbook of Names and Naming* appearing both in hardback (2016) at £95 and—very conveniently for those of us who teach the subject—in considerably more affordable (£35) paperback form (2017). Onomastics in the United Kingdom is very strongly supported by the work of both Professor Hough and Professor Coates, and the breadth and depth of current scholarship is showcased through these two important publications, which will no doubt shape the study and progression of the subject for many years to come.

Additionally, in the past two years, a wide range of onomastic material has appeared in books and journals addressing both the more traditional, historical approaches, and the more political, innovative investigations of name data. In terms of historical and etymological work, notable new books include Alan Macniven's volume, *The Vikings in Islay: The Place of Names in Hebridean Settlement History* (2015), and the addition of Part Seven of Barrie Cox's *The Place-Names of Leicestershire* (2016) to the Survey of English Place-Names. Critical, political onomastic work was the focus of a number of papers and chapters, and received a considerable boost with the addition of Guy Puzey and Laura Kostanski's edited volume, *Names and Naming: People, Places and Power* (2016), which endeavours to take up the banner flown by Lawrence Berg and Jani Vuolteenaho in their important collection, *Critical Toponymies* (2009). It is also worth noting that Berg and Vuolteenaho's influential text appeared in paperback in 2016 (with publication moving to Routledge on its incorporation of Ashgate publishing), which provides some indication of the growing interest in critical onomastics. Tensions between 'scholarly' interpretations of names and the

competing ‘validity’ of folk-names are apparent in some of the publications relating to onomastic politics, and this point is clearly illustrated in Wolfgang P. Ahrens’ article ‘Naming the Bahamas Islands: History and Folk Etymology’ (*OnCan* 94[2015] 97-137).

The researcher of such topics as contested names and post-colonial naming practices must be prepared to roam extensively through a burgeoning collection of literature. Take for example Ambe J. Njoh’s article, ‘Toponymic Inscription as an Instrument of Power in Africa: The case of colonial and post-colonial Dakar and Nairobi’, published not in a journal of onomastics, but in the *Journal of Asian and African Studies* (52[2016] 1174-92). New approaches to critical onomastics continue to evolve, one recent important contribution being Star Medzerian Vanguri’s edited volume *Rhetorics of Names and Naming* (2016), which ‘steps towards a rhetorical onomastics’, its chapters examining ‘the ways in which naming orders the world’ and is reviewed separately (*Names* 66[2018]). Subjects as diverse as Psychology, History, (Human) Geography, Sociology, Genetics, Genealogy, Literature, Advertising, and Marketing, benefit from and engage with onomastic questions, and many of the publications discussed here operate at the intersection of English with one or more of the above, far from exhaustive, subject list. Onomastic and toponymic theories also continue to evolve, and different research methods afford different social and historical insights, as Jan Tent reminds readers in ‘Approaches to Research in Toponymy’ (*Names* 63[2015] 65-74).

As noted above, one of the key onomastic publications of the past two years is the monumental *Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland* (*FaNBI*), edited by Richard Coates, Patrick Hanks and Peter McClure, which marks a new chapter in the study of surnames in these islands. The editors sought to produce a text that would essentially update and replace the previous leading works on surnames covering this geographical area, namely: P. H. Reaney and R. M. Wilson’s *Dictionary of English Surnames* (1997); George F. Black’s *The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning, and History* (1946); Edward MacLysaght’s *Surnames of Ireland* (1985) and Patrick Woulfe’s *Sloinnite Gaedheal is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames* (1923); T. J. Morgan and Prys Morgan’s *Welsh Surnames* (1985); and J. J. Kneen’s *The Personal Names of the Isle of Man* (1937), as they note (p. ix). In doing so, they reimagined the inclusion criteria to avoid replicating the marginalising policies of earlier works that overlooked ‘immigrant names and [...] most Jewish and Irish names in Britain’ (p. ix). Instead, they provide ‘an entry for all—or almost all—family names that have more than 100 bearers in the UK 2011 census’, those not included being ‘a few immigrant names that came in after 2000’ (p. ix). Given that these inclusion policies appear to stress a desire for greater recognition of different cultures, the work’s title creates a striking irony; the group of current surnames used to define the data set actually stops at the Northern Irish border, despite the dictionary purporting to address ‘*Family Names in Britain and Ireland*’. It would have been more accurate for publication to have reflected the research project title, ‘Family Names of the *United Kingdom*’ (my emphasis). The team of *FaNBI* researchers consisted of wide range of anthroponymic experts, including Paul Cullen, Simon Draper, Duncan Probert, Kate Hardcastle, Harry Parkin, Kay Muhr and Liam Ó hAisibéil. Besides these key members of the team, several consultants and contributors covered other name-categories, including Daniel Morgan-Thomas (Jewish names), Horace Chen (Chinese names) and Eunice Fajobi (Nigerian names). Additionally, *FaNBI* ‘benefited from information supplied by genealogists and by local and family-name historians, in particular members of the Guild of One-Name Studies and Dr George Redmonds’ (p. xi). The Introduction to the dictionary provides an excellent invitation to the subject with its accessible, authoritative account of surnames in the United Kingdom, ranging from the impact of genetic research on anthroponymics to the historiography of British family names from the seventeenth century to the present day (pp. ix-lxi). The glossary (pp. lxiii-lxxiii) and extensive list of sources (pp. lxxv-cxvii) provide the reader with detailed guidance, and each entry includes frequency

statistics for ‘G[reat] B[ritain]’, derived from the British censuses of 2011 and 1881, and for (presumably Northern) ‘Ireland’, derived slightly mysteriously: ‘[f]or Ireland, equivalent frequency data is also given, insofar as it was available at the time of compilation’ (p. x). Variant spellings are extensively documented and cross-referenced, key locations with which names are associated are identified, and etymological information is supplied where available. If known, early bearers of the name are included together with explanations, further discussion, and references. The entry for the surname *Meikle* (p. 1820), serves as an illustration of the typical format:

**Meikle**

**Variants: Mickel**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2670, Ireland 43
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2153
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland: esp. Lanarks[hire]

Scottish: nickname from Middle Scots *mekill*, *meikill* ‘big’. Compare **Mitchell** (2), **Muckle**, and **Mutch**.

Early bearers: William Mykyl, 1382 in *Aberdeen Council Register* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens[hire]), Bessie Mekill, 1609, William Meikill, 1616 in *Retours, Scotland*, (Linlithgow, West Lothian); [...].

The depth and breadth of coverage achieved by **FaNBI** is impressive and this new resource will no doubt pave the way for further lines of inquiry from anthroponymic scholars as well as bringing the extant knowledge of surnames in the United Kingdom to the attention of a much wider audience. The dictionary received considerable press attention, with reviews appearing in a number of British newspapers including *The Guardian* (16<sup>th</sup> November 2016; emended 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016) and *The Telegraph* (17<sup>th</sup> November 2016). The extensive research project underpinning **FaNBI** also gave rise to several conference papers, reports, and publications. For example, Coates and Hanks produced an article with Kate Hardcastle on ‘Italian surnames in the Family Names of the United Kingdom project’ (**QRIO** 5[2015] 73-8 and Hanks co-authored the chapter on ‘Family Names’ with Harry Parkin in Hough’s edited volume (2016), joining up current thinking across these conveniently-timed publications. Peter McClure’s ongoing series of articles, ‘Explaining English surnames: linguistic ambiguity and the importance of context: Part One’ (*Nomina* 36[2013] 1-33) and ‘Part Two: Interpreting the Modern Data’ (*Nomina* 37[2014] 109-41) also developed in part from his work with FaNUK and includes discussion of materials collected for the project.

*The Oxford Handbook of Names and Naming*, edited by Carole Hough with assistance from Daria Izdebska (2016), brings together a wide range of chapters by leading international experts, and in doing so has created an extremely useful textbook for the study of onomastics. One of its particular advantages is that the chapters have been carefully co-ordinated to avoid any clashes of terminology, without impinging on the different theories and approaches taken by each of the contributors. Key areas of dispute and debate are put into context with ideas for further reading and helpful historiographical information provided in most chapters, making the textbook particularly useful for anyone new to onomastics, or new to one of the specific sub-disciplines, which each have their own sub-section. The book is divided into the following parts: onomastic theory; toponomastics; anthroponomastics; literary onomastics; socio-onomastics; onomastics and other disciplines; other types of names. As one of the contributors, and as one lucky enough to count Professor Hough and many of the contributors as significant mentors, this writer must acknowledge some bias; helpfully, however—at the time of writing—a detailed review by Dorothy Dodge Robbins has recently become available in the online version of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*. Robbins’ highly complimentary

assessment concludes: 'Expansive in scope, logical in its arrangement, finely edited, and replete with contributions from leading names experts around the world, this is the essential reference guide to all matters onomastic, for which we have long waited' (*Names* 66[2018]).

Traditional, historical work on English place-names continues to advance through the publications of the English Place-Name Society. 2016 saw the publication of Part Seven of *The Place-Names of Leicestershire* by Barrie Cox, bringing the total number of extant English Place-Name Survey volumes to an impressive ninety-one. Support for the production of these volumes continues under the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy. Part Seven expands the coverage of the county of Leicestershire to include the areas of 'West Goscote Hundred and the Leicestershire Parishes of Repton and Gresley Hundred', and Cox notes in his preface that this volume 'completes the coverage of the settlements and terrain in [his] survey of the place-names of the county which began with the publication of *The Borough of Leicester* (EPNS Volume LXXV) in 1998' (p. vii). Cox's contribution to the work of the English Place-Name Survey has been substantial, continued and dedicated, and without the painstaking research necessary to trace the historical forms and interpret the etymologies of place-names though surveys of this scale, further analysis of the patterns observable in the data would be virtually impossible.

George Redmonds provides a similarly provocative data set in his *Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames* (2015). Reviewing this title, Harry Parkin (*Nomina* 38[2015] 139-42) notes that while 'the criteria for a surname's inclusion in the dictionary are not clear', in other respects Redmonds' work is 'very impressive' and provides 'a model for future regional surname dictionaries' (p. 142). A revised paperback edition of Redmonds' collaborative work with Turi King and David Hey, *Surnames, DNA, & Family History*, also appeared in 2015. In his assessment of the original edition (2011), Simon Draper (*Nomina* 24[2011] 151-53) described the book as 'ground-breaking', showcasing 'surname study as a valid academic discipline with an emerging methodology and the potential to reveal much about language, society and culture' (p. 151). Although the original was accessibly priced at £21.00, the new paperback is even more affordable at £12.99, and the updated chapter 9, 'The Wider Picture' now includes discussion of the analysis carried out at the University of Leicester to establish the identity of the famous 'skeletal remains' found under one of the city's car parks in 2012 (pp. 214-220). Genetic material from the skeleton was compared to that of known living descendants of England's King Richard III, and mitochondrial DNA evidence revealed 'a match with two living female-line relatives' (p. 220).

Marcienne Martin's monograph, *A Name to Exist: The Example of the Pseudonym on the Internet* (2016), explores a data set totalling 'approximately 1000 units' (p. xix). There are some issues with the proof-reading quality of this volume, with the acknowledgements page including an accidental italic, an instruction to the editor on the wording of the title, and a profound thank you to Georges Botet Pradeilles 'for the translation of this work', although he is not officially credited outside of this dedication. There are, unfortunately, numerous curiosities of style and presentation that distract from this work's efforts to push the boundaries towards an understanding of extant naming strategies in the protean, ambiguous world of the internet and social media. Numerous tables and figures are supplied in an effort to systematically track approaches to naming, from general principles such as: 'Procedures of the naming of the subject in different social groups' (pp. 36-7), to specific observable patterns such as: 'Subcategories of [pseudonyms relating to] "Opinions and Feelings"' (p. 130). In sum, Martin does not make any sweeping claims with regard to her findings, but notes the key observations that while 'users of the internet can change their nicknames *ad libitum*' (p. 144), internet pseudonyms are nevertheless 'rigid identity marker[s] in a given time' (p. 143) and may be combined with the use of 'informal speech' to accentuate a perception of

familiarity (p. 144). The value of this work lies therefore in its contribution to the surveying and categorisation of online usernames than ‘discoveries’ in terms of online onymic practice.

Alina Bugheșiu’s monograph, *Trade Names in Contemporary Romanian Public Space* (2015), devotes much of its discussion to general principles relating to commercial naming practices, and also examines the impact of English names, the ‘Anglo-fashion’ (p. vii), occurring as a result of globalisation. The book is divided into two parts. Part 1 focuses on ‘Trade Names in Theory’, providing a literature review of previous studies on name theory—from John Stuart Mill to Willy Van Langendonck—and of past typological analyses of trade names, assessing the processes by which a name becomes a successful brand. The Romanian context is also usefully introduced with a discussion of the relevant European legal frameworks affecting commercial names. Part 2 moves on to examine ‘Trade Names in Practice’, looking at the linguistic landscape (LL) and providing an analysis of the names of companies, shops, restaurants and cafes and private accommodation. A practical appendix of these names is also included. In her conclusion, Bugheșiu largely draws on the Romanian data in support of previously identified onomastic patterns and trends, and observes that ‘[t]he contrast between globalisation and localisation is particularly visible with names of accommodation locations, which, when they are in Romanian, tend to consist of regional and/or archaic lexical items and to display regional syntactical patterns as an expression of local identity’ (p. 200). Generally this text does not suffer from the same production issues as Martin (2016). There is the occasional wayward attribution of references, for example when Richard Hudson is cited as arguing that ‘trade names play a crucial role in the development of the Romanian language and culture, as they [...] introduce new structures in our conceptual universe (Hudson 2001: 72)’ (p. 75); Hudson’s point relates to the labels and categories applied to similar concepts in different languages and cultures, and while this issue has some relevance to Bugheșiu’s discussion, its precise adaptation to Romanian trade names could have more been effectively articulated by the author. Overall, the work has transformed from PhD thesis to monograph effectively, making it a very useful contribution to the extant literature on commercial naming while providing new insights into the Romanian LL and the effects of globalisation.

Alan Macniven’s monograph, *The Vikings in Islay: the place of names in Hebridean settlement history* (2015), was shortlisted for the Saltire Society Scottish Research Book of the Year Award (2016). Macniven uses toponymic evidence to argue that Norse settlement and colonisation of Islay in the Viking period has been underestimated by previous scholars, ‘due in part to the allure of the traditional historical narrative of cultural continuity, with its memes of resilience and integration understandably more attractive than those of violence and apartheid’ (p. 105). In debating these questions, Macniven is not only engaging with matters of etymology and language contact, but also with a historical critical toponymy that is politically informed and aware of the prevailing stereotypes that continue to impact on historical cultural narratives. The book received a detailed review by Alasdair C. Whyte in the *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* which on the one hand concluded that the ‘analysis of Islay’s Gaelic names falls short’ (as opposed to his treatment of names of Old Norse origin), while acknowledging that the author succeeds in ‘provid[ing] valuable clues to the nature of settlement and societal development by way of a contextualised appraisal of local place-names’ (*JSNS* 10[2016] 213-18, p. 218). Macniven analyses over 600 Islay place-names, providing an important addition to current scholarship, the only other previous survey being F. L. W. Thomas’ considerably older account (1881-2) which only examined 162 names.

Also of relevance to colonial naming practices and Scottish onomastics is Elspeth Wills’ book, *Abbotsford to Zion: the story of Scottish place names around the world* (2016). As she notes, ‘[t]here are at least 550 towns, suburbs, villages, mountains, rivers and other topographical features in South Africa alone with Scottish names’ (p. xi), so any researcher

dipping into this topic has much material to work with, and many stories to tell. Wills does so entertainingly, although the lack of references forces readers to take a great deal on trust. The book is aimed at a wide audience of general readers; academic readers will perhaps benefit most from the questions and contexts that the text opens up for further investigation. For example, while the presence of Scottish names transplanted to the United States of America, Canada or Aotearoa-New Zealand is well known, Wills also discusses some lesser-known examples, such as the suburbs of ‘Szkoty Stare, or Altschottland, and Szkoty Nowe (Old and New Scotland)’ in Gdansk, Poland (p. 48). Her exploration also includes anecdotes relating to colonial anthroponymic impositions, including the example of one ‘William McDowall, who owned sugar plantations in Nevis and St Kitts in the early eighteenth century, [and] gave his slaves names such as Paisley, Craigends and Kilbarchan’ (p. 55). Each of these vignettes may spark further lines of enquiry for the interested onomast, and Wills’ text certainly serves to underscore the extent of the involvement of Scots around the globe—borrowing the title from her Introduction—quite literally ‘Putting Scotland on the map’ (p. xi).

Critical toponymy and anthroponymy takes centre stage in Guy Puzey and Laura Kostanski’s edited collection, *Name and Naming: People, Places, Perceptions and Power* (2016). The stated purpose of the volume is to ‘contribute to the growing field of critical onomastic enquiry, by analysing patterns of naming and also asking why or how these have come into existence and, crucially, what naming practices mean for those involved’ (p. xiii). Many of the papers ask questions and further understanding about different elements of onomastic practice; importantly, many of the issues presented in relation to one specific context or one instance of cultural clash can be ported over to a wide range of other situations and locations—for example, while each post-colonial situation is different in its details, the onomastic questions and cultural contests that arise have much in common with one another. Geographically, the papers travel from Scandinavia to Australia, by way of Scotland, Italy and Hungary. The book is divided into three parts: ‘the varied identities of people and places’; ‘attitudes and attachment’; ‘power, resistance and control’. The editors begin with a piece on ‘Trends in Onomastics: An Introduction’ (pp. xiii-xxiv) which provides a useful overview of critical toponymic work to date and contextualises the papers in their volume. Part one begins with an enquiry into ‘Internet Personal Naming Practices and Trends in Scholarly Approaches’, by Katarzyna Aleksiejuk (pp. 3-17). She concludes that the internet username is ‘not a uniform category’, and while observing some parallels between online naming and naming more generally, usernames are influenced by a matrix of ‘cultural, social, individual and medium-related factors, such as purpose of communication, mode (synchronous versus asynchronous), users’ backgrounds, official regulations and unwritten norms of naming practices, and possibly other factors’ (p. 14). In chapter two, Ian D. Clark discusses ‘Visitor Experiences of Aboriginal Place Names in Colonial Victoria, Australia, 1834-1900’ (pp. 18-31). Building on his earlier paper, ‘Three nineteenth-century colonial travellers to Victoria, Australia, and their preference for Aboriginal place-names – an exploration’ (*Onoma* 46[2011] 151-65), Clark examines the works of 100 nineteenth-century travel writers in order to assess their interest in Indigenous toponymy. Of these writers, 36 demonstrate some interest in place-names, and 10 comment on Indigenous names. The common thread linking the latter group is the study of ‘the impact of European colonisation’, with Isabella Bird, Hume Nisbet and Henry Haygarth expressing particular concern about the imposition of ‘semiotically incongruous’ colonial names (p. 29). On a related topic, chapter three sees Michael Walsh explore ‘Introduced Personal Names for Australian Aborigines: Adaptations to an Exotic Anthroponymy’ (pp. 32-46). As this is an under-researched subject, Walsh ‘relied on his own fieldwork, particularly at Wadeye in the Northern Territory, and observations in Aboriginal Australia over the last 40 years’ for his investigation (p. 32). He decodes a number of patterns in the data, such as the ease of assimilation of names which are



phonologically similar to those used in Aboriginal Australian languages (pp. 34-6) and the impact of Presbyterian and Roman Catholic missions on naming trends (p. 37-8). Although this chapter presents an 'initial overview' rather than a definitive statement on these naming practices, Walsh invites further research into such issues as 'to what extent introduced personal names for Australian Aborigines vary from region to region' (p. 44). In chapter four, Ellen S. Bramwell considers 'Personal Naming and Community Practices in the Western Isles of Scotland: Putting Names in the 'Gaelic Sense' (pp. 47-61). Bramwell's sociological study notes that the act of referencing another person 'does not involve simply using the official name, but also using unofficial Gaelic naming traditions to situate a person within the community' (p. 47). Her interviews and ethnographic fieldwork, enhanced by her 'insider status within the community' (p. 50) allowed her to chart the dominant official and unofficial name structures found in 'a part of one of the islands of the Western Isles', although the area in question is not specifically identified, 'in order to protect the identities of the informants' (p. 49). She documents the prevailing patterns of individual and kinship bynames, nicknames, and maritonyms, concluding that the naming systems 'are multilayered, allowing for indexing and reinforcement of community knowledge and close-knit social ties as part of everyday practice' (p. 59). Chapter five, by Peter Mühlhäusler and Joshua Nash, returns to the southern hemisphere to examine 'Signs of/on Power, Power on/of Signs: Language-Based Tourism, Linguistic Landscapes and Onomastics on Norfolk Island' (pp. 62-80). The isolated Pacific island of Norfolk, between Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand, with a population of about 1600, has two official languages: English and Norf'k (or 'the Pitkern-Norf'k language'), the latter developing 'on Pitcairn Island as a consequence of the mutiny on the Bounty' (p. 64). Norf'k has a particular draw for tourists and is used extensively in marketing and in the island's (onomastic) LL, but Norf'k is not always represented faithfully; Mühlhäusler and Nash note, for example, the tourist-oriented guide, *Speak Norfolk Today* (1988), which documents a form of the language known as "'instant Norf'k'" (Laycock, 1989), an easy-to-master variety markedly different and distinct from the broad variety of the language generally spoken by older Pitcairn descendants' (p. 72). The authors argue for a more informed, culturally-aware and environmentally-sensitive tourism that acknowledges the importance of Norf'k as an asset, and in which 'Norfolk's LL is but one outlet for these possibilities that will hopefully become reality' (p. 78). (Nash also examines the insider knowledge necessary to understand the uses of place-names coined in Norf'k in 'Cultural Aspects of Norfolk Island Toponymy' (*OnCan* 95[2016] 23-49) and assesses the distinctive methodological approaches best suited to insular onomastic research contexts in 'Island Place-naming and Insular Toponymies' (*Names* 63[2015] 146-57.)

Part two, on 'Attitudes and Attachment', begins with Laura Kostanski's chapter on 'The Controversy of Restoring Indigenous Names: Lessons Learnt and Strategies for Success' (pp. 83-105), which examines the consequences of the proposed restoration of Indigenous names in the then 'Grampians National Park' (now the Grampians/Gariwerd National Park in 1989-90 (p. 83). She puts forward several key recommendations for future attempts to engage with naming processes, including the need for '[n]ame restoration [to] be conducted as a community-based decision-making program'; the need for 'the naming authority [to] conduct education programs to provide the community with details of why certain toponyms are slated for restoration' (p. 103); the need for dual naming to be considered in order to respect the 'individuals and communities [that] have already formed attachments with the existing officially recognised toponyms'; and the caveat that '[n]aming authorities should never utilise a name restoration program solely for the purposes of promoting the qualities of a place to tourists' (p. 104). In 'Attitudes to Street Names in Helsinki' (pp. 106-19), Terhi Ainiala develops the concept of folk onomastics, on analogy with folk linguistics, to explore perceptions of street-names through interview data. Her

findings support earlier conclusions that ‘the descriptiveness of names is considered an important feature’, while also demonstrating that for many informants, ‘it is important that a name says something about the place itself’ (p. 117). She therefore questions the use of thematic patterns of naming, where a new estate or group of streets are all called after a set of people or things (e.g. flowers, rulers). ‘Should these kinds of thematic names be planned more carefully so they can be more deeply anchored to their surroundings?’ (p. 118) In chapter 8, Maimu Berezkina examines ‘Linguistic Landscape and Inhabitants’ Attitudes to Place Names in Multicultural Oslo’, focusing specifically on Grønland because of its extensive immigrant population, and examining the languages used in commercial contexts. Her study showed that ‘[m]inority languages [...] are almost exclusively found on elements of the LL that are relevant only for a certain immigrant group’, and ‘that there is no distinctive pressure from the [Norwegian, Pakistani and Polish] minority communities to influence the linguistic composition of official signs in Oslo’ (p. 134). Chapter 9, my own, ‘Attitudes to Scots: Insights from the Toponymicon’ (pp. 137-49), argues that the use of the Scots language in both the official and unofficial LL attests to its local prestige. In chapter 10, ‘Slang Toponyms in Hungary: A Survey of Attitudes Among Language Users’ (pp. 153-61), Erzsébet Györffy evaluates the results of a questionnaire completed by a group of student informants. Many Hungarian slang names are alterations of their original forms with elements from English-speaking contexts added, as for example in the case of *Balmazújváros* which has the slang form *Balmaz New York* (p. 155). Respondents typically focused on the humour of slang names, their predominant use, in informal contexts, by ‘urban populations and by young people’ (p. 156), and their sociolinguistic function as identifiers of community belonging. Some informants also considered them fashionable terms (p. 158); essentially, ‘what is characteristic of the other areas of slang vocabulary is also characteristic of slang toponyms’ (p. 159).

Part three, ‘Power, Resistance and Control’, begins with Guy Puzey’s chapter, ‘Renaming as Counter-Hegemony: The Cases of *Noreg* and *Padania*’ (pp. 165-184), which draws on Antonio Gramsci’s theories of language and power. Puzey examines the contested names for Norway: *Norge* (Bokmål) and *Noreg* (Nynorsk) and the efforts of the Lega Nord (Northern League) ‘to construct the idea of a northern Italian nation, *Padania*’ (p. 175), and the socio-political debates provoked by these toponyms. His conclusion logically calls for greater recognition of toponyms as ‘everyday symbols of nationhood, identity, belonging or, potentially, exclusion’ (p. 181). Chapter 12, by Staffan Nyström, ‘Naming Parks, Footpaths and Small Bridges in a Multicultural Suburban Area’ (pp. 185-96), focuses on local onomastic planning by the Name Drafting Committee of Stockholm in the Rinkeby and Tensta districts of the city. Social problems in these areas, including the need for better identification of hot-spots for criminal activity, led to a debate around the need for additional names, going against usual practice: ‘it was simply normal procedure not to name [...] minor parks, bridges and footpaths’ (p. 188). The Name Drafting Committee took up this challenge, producing a set of practical (if unimaginative) names in Swedish, which were all adopted formally by 2011 (for official use), although the outcome was an unusual form of top-down, onomastic policy-making. At the time of writing the author notes: ‘there are still no signs showing the new names, which means they remain unknown to the general public’ (p. 195). These names largely exist outside of public use; only time will tell ‘if they have been generally accepted or not’, though they have apparently pleased the local officials who requested them (p. 195). In chapter 13, ‘Personal Names in Language Policy and Planning: Who Plans What Names, for Whom and How?’, Justyna B. Walkowiak comments on a wide diversity of practices from around the world. Drawing attention to the little effort made thus far ‘to incorporate [names] systematically into the theoretical framework’ of language policy and planning, and the spread of commentary on the topic across a wide range of disciplines—



from law to linguistic human rights (p. 210)—Walkowiak’s chapter is a timely introduction to a topic deserving of further scrutiny. In chapter 14, Aud-Kirsti Pedersen poses the question: ‘Is the Official Use of Names in Norway Determined by the Place-Names Act [1991; revised 2006] or by Attitudes?’ (pp. 213-28). She examines the methods by which names have been recorded and the challenges of deriving, in accordance with the Act, ‘a standardised spelling based on the local inherited pronunciation’ (p. 214), observing two key issues at play. Establishing official versions of traditional Norwegian names, passed on by oral tradition, is hampered by prejudice lingering from negative comparisons with Danish, ‘the elite language in Norway for hundreds of years’, and there are problems with ‘bringing Sámi and Kven place names into official public use [because of] the negative attitudes to these languages’ (p. 225). She concludes that the Act has so far been ‘an inefficient tool’ (p. 225). Related questions are debated by Kaisa Rautio Helander in chapter 15, ‘The Power of Administration in the Official Recognition of Indigenous Place Names in the Nordic Countries’ (pp. 229-49). This study examines the success of efforts to grant recognition to indigenous Sámi place-names. In Norway, the Place-Names Act (1991) has enabled restoration of some Sámi names, but the process is not always straightforward; debates over spellings can delay implementation, various forms of local government bodies are unsystematic in their approach, and activists face resistance because ‘Sámi settlement names are clearly regarded as symbols of Sámi rights’ (p. 245). Pedersen notes that the restoration of Sámi names has proceeded more effectively in Finland, where ‘administrative bodies respect the Sámi language act’ (p. 246) which rather leaves one wondering whether the problem of implementing such changes in Norway could be remedied by greater central control over local policy, or whether deeper racial tensions are implied. These questions of language planning, cultural contestation, and official power have their parallels in a wide range of countries, and this type of comparative work may be of particular benefit to other contexts where similar political issues arise.

African critical toponymy is explored in Liora Bigon’s edited volume, *Place Names in Africa: Colonial Urban Legacies, Entangled Histories* (2016). The fourteen chapters in the book provide a very valuable addition to global onomastics. Bigon opens with an introductory chapter (pp. 1-25), identical in title to the collection, noting, ‘untypically of both traditional and recent place naming studies, which have been governed by linguists and historians of (European) nationalism respectively, this volume is primarily a product of urbanists – that is, of urban historians, planners, geographers and architects’ (p. 1). English names in Africa are considered in several chapters, including Garth Myers’, ‘“The Trees are Yours”: Nature, Toponymy and Politics in the Interpretation of Cultural Landscapes in Lusaka and Zanzibar’ (pp. 45-57) and Barbara Meiring’s, ‘South African Identity as Reflected by its Toponymic Tapestry’ (pp. 159-75). Similar questions are further articulated in *The Postcolonial Condition of Names and Naming Practices in Southern Africa* (2016), edited by Oliver Nyambi, Tendai Mangena and Charles Pfukwa. The twenty-one chapters are thematically grouped to cover issues in anthroponomy, literary onomastics, toponymy and brand naming. In the introductory chapter, ‘The Way We Name Now: Postcolonial Perspectives from Southern Africa’ (pp. 1-19), Oliver Nyambi and Tendai Mangena begin by suggesting that there is ‘no better site to encounter colonial remnants of the postcolony than in the on-going debates on toponym (place name) changes across the whole of the southern African region’ (p. 1). Of particular interest for English studies are the chapters ‘Suburban Blight: Perpetuating Colonial Memory through Naming in Mutare, Zimbabwe’ by Jacob Mapara and Shumirai Nyota (pp. 289-306), and ‘Phoneme-Grapheme Disparities in Some Bulawayo Ndebele Toponyms’ by Sambulo Ndlovu (pp. 307-20).

Alongside these new onomastic titles, the subject continues to be represented by a wide range of journals and newsletters, ranging from well-established international

publications such as *Onoma* to the numerous hard copy and electronic newsletters issued by national and local onomastic societies, such as the electronic newsletter of the Lancashire Place-Name Society and *Placenames Australia*, the newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey. While it is beyond the scope of this review to address and acknowledge every one of these periodicals in detail, it is a testament to the health of the sub-discipline that so many groups currently exist. *The Journal of Literary Onomastics*, which existed in a former life as the journal *Literary Onomastics Studies* (1974-89), deserves special mention for providing a dedicated international forum for the subject, thanks to its reboot in 2012 by Stefan Jurasinski. In 2016, *Names and Their Environment: Proceedings of the 25th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, Glasgow, 15-19 August 2014*, a wide-ranging collection of papers edited by Carole Hough and Daria Izdebska, was published online. The material is organised into 5 volumes: ‘Keynote Lectures: Toponomastics I’; ‘Toponomastics II’; ‘Anthroponomastics’; ‘Theory and Methodology / Socio-onomastics’; ‘Literary Onomastics / Other Names / Commercial Names’, and can be downloaded in pdf format from the website of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences. It should also be remembered that papers written in other languages often deal with subjects that are directly relevant to the study of English and onomastics, such as those published in the Russian journal *Voprosy Onomastiki (Problems of Onomastics)*. In 2015, for example, Vladislav V. Alpatov examined pre- and post-Reformation naming practices in ‘Place-Names with Biblical Associations in England and Other Countries of Western Europe: A Chronology and Motivation’, noting key periods of activity in the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries (*PoO* 18[2015] 17-46).

Volume 47 of *Onoma*, the 2012 issue of the Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, was published in 2015, and took as its focus ‘Names and Law’. Guest edited by Katharina Leibring and Andreas Teutsch, the volume looks at anthroponymic and toponymic practices in Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, France, Austria, Poland, Denmark and Germany, and includes two papers on commercial names in Russia and usernames on the Internet. While the focus of these papers is very much on their individual contexts, much of this information is of relevance to ideas of language policy and planning wherever those questions are raised. The case studies addressed in each country are therefore of universal onymic interest, at least at the more transferrable, theoretical level.

*Nomina*, the Journal of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, and the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, covered toponymic and anthroponymic topics with the occasional digression into more modern onomastic contexts in the volumes for 2014 and 2015 (published in 2015 and 2016 respectively). Michael Pearce considered questions of regional identity in his papers on ‘The Ethnonym *Geordie* in North East England’ (*Names* 63[2015] 75-85), and ‘“Not quite a Geordie”: the folk-ethnonyms of north-east England’ (*Nomina* 37[2014] 1-34), noting several examples of ethnonyms that began as insults but were later adopted ‘as positive badges of identity’ (p. 28). The history and etymology of a term first recorded in writing in the nineteenth century and used by ‘English-speaking Americans in reference to francophone Canadians’ (p. 76) is explored by William Sayers in ‘Etymologies of *Canuck*’ (*OnCan* 95[2016] 75-84). Duncan Probert examined ‘Peasant personal names and bynames from late-eleventh century Bury St Edmunds’ (*Nomina* 37[2014] 35-71), uncovering ‘a rich and established tradition of bynames’, most of which were ‘originally in the vernacular (generally Old English, with a few of Scandinavian or French origin) but with common terms and some inflections rendered in Latin’ (p. 65). Simon Young poses the question, ‘What is a Boggart Hole?’ (*Nomina* 37[2014] 73-107), suggesting that the northern English *boggart*—a ghostly or goblin-like folkloric creature—is typically associated with ‘low-lying wet places’ (p. 89). In the course of his research he has assembled an impressive corpus of 108 *boggart* names, and while it is unlikely to be exhaustive, due to the unofficial and microtoponymic employment of the element, the corpus facilitates a much

wider examination of this place-name element than has hitherto been possible. Continuing the magical theme, Frank Nuessel provides ‘A Note on the Names of Selected Magicians’ (*Names* 63[2015] 44-54).

Peter McClure continues his series of articles, ‘Explaining English surnames: linguistic ambiguity and the importance of context’ with ‘Part Two: Interpreting the Modern Data’ (*Nomina* 37[2014] 109-41), which examines material from the mid-fifteenth to the late nineteenth century. Stressing the instability of hereditary surnames, he warns that their lack of regulation and frequency of reinterpretation has not always been fully appreciated, yet the historical record shows ‘name-forms converging and diverging in ways that easily can mislead etymologists, cataloguers and indexers’ (p. 111). Lack of systematic study of evolving name forms has also led to valuable historical linguistic data being overlooked, particularly data relating to dialectal phonology, and McClure anticipates *FaNBI* as a resource to facilitate a more holistic understanding of morphological and phonological surname evolution. McClure also uses *FaNBI* data in his ground-breaking article ‘English toponymic surnames fused with Anglo-Norman preposition and article: myth or reality’ (*Nomina* 38[2015] 33-69). Through detailed, thorough examination of surname histories, he challenges the idea that ‘modern surnames in *Del-*, *Dela-* and *Du-* formed a homogeneous, etymologically coherent group’ (p. 63), concluding that there is ‘no evidence of any modern surnames in Reaney and Wilson’s dictionary that are certainly topographic in origin with an original fused A[nglo-]N[orman] prepositional element’ (p. 64). Noleen Turner explores ‘Paronomasia, word play and double entendre in name giving’ (*NomAf* 30[2016] 75-87), focusing on names for people, boats and businesses. Marc Picard writes ‘On the Origins of the ‘Unexplained’ English Surnames in North America’ (*OnCan* 94[2015] 44-95), supplying a gazetteer (pp. 46-81) of suggested interpretations for surnames labelled in Patrick Hanks’ *Dictionary of American Family Names* (2003) as ‘English: unexplained’. He also includes several appendices of surnames of non-English origin, surnames discussed in English onomastic dictionaries, and surnames he considers of English origin but otherwise obscure. Some studies focused very particularly on individual names. Fiona Edmonds assesses ‘Norse Influence in North-West England: Jocelin of Furness’s Interpretation of the Name *Waltheof*’ (*JSNS* 9[2015] 43-62). ‘Blackbeard’s surname’ is examined by Richard Coates (*Nomina* 37[2014] 159-68) who concludes that the infamous privateer’s name was *Thatch*; if this be an inherited rather than an adopted name, historical records suggest ‘he had family connections with Bristol’ (p. 164).

Peter A. Rogerson discusses ‘The Effects of Months, Holidays, and the Birthdays of Presidents on Choice of Baby Names’ (*Names* 64[2016] 234-41), noting that baby (boys) in the US are much more likely to be named after a president if they share their birthday. Sharon N. Obasi examines ‘Naming Patterns in Rural South-Central Nebraska’ (*Names* 64[2016] 158-65), observing that boys and first-born children were more likely to be ‘namesaked’, that is, named after a relative, in accordance with local tradition. Data from the website MissNowMrs.com is used by Laurie K. Scheuble and David R. Johnson in their paper, ‘Keeping Her Surname as a Middle Name at Marriage: What Predicts this Practice Among Married Women Who Take Their Husband’s Last Name?’ (*Names* 64[2016] 202-16). They suggest that women who adopt this naming strategy may do so as ‘a compromise between adhering to normative gender role expectations and maintaining one’s identity’ (p. 213). Also examining present-day practices, Alexandre Pascual, Nicolas Guéguen, Boris Vallée, Marcel Lourel, and Olivier Cosnefroy consider ‘First Name Popularity as Predictor of Employability’ (*Names* 63[2015] 30-36), concluding that bearers of popular first names have a distinct advantage when job-hunting. Also on the subject of onomastics and perception, Réka Benczes and Kate Burridge explore ‘Current Attitudes to Ageing as Reflected in the Names of Australian Aged Care Facilities’ (*Names* 63[2015] 127-45). Their 2013 data shows a

marked increase in the use of euphemisms since 1987, and they read this change as reflecting a move towards a more positive view of ageing.

By 'Looking even more closely at the Nordic element in East Anglian place-names' (*Nomina* 37[2014] 143-58), Gillian Fellows-Jensen examines the Lincolnshire name Threkingham (Threckingham) in the light of the Norfolk name Thrigby, and assesses the use in East Anglia of the Scandinavian names *Arnketil*, *Ásketil*, *Grímketil*, *Purketil* and *Ulfketil*. In 'The Scottish Maidenwells' (*Nomina* 38[2015] 1-16), Carole Hough updates her previous contribution to the study of this group of names (*Nomina* 33[2010] 27-44) with further insights from the seven Scottish *Maidenwell* names so far identified. She concludes that rather than widening the name-type identified in the southern British examples, the Scottish names 'clearly stand apart', and do not clearly form a coherent type of their own (p. 14). In 'Some Nottinghamshire dead men', Rebecca Gregory responds to Jeremy Harte's 'Down among the dead men' (*Nomina* 36[2013] 35-52), widening the corpus of *Deadman* names with a collection from her own research. She argues that the patterns of correspondence between these names and names denoting places of execution deserve further consideration, and may not support Harte's assertion that *Deadman* names 'reflect unexpected or exceptional circumstances' (p. 85) but rather provide insights into hitherto unknown 'place-name types connected to execution and burial customs in the medieval period and beyond it' (p. 91). John Algeo considers a different category of minor names in 'From Classy to Classic: Changing Fashions in Street Names' (*Names* 63[2015] 220-32), focusing on onomastic patterns in the toponyms of Athens, Georgia. Eila Williamson looks at former British methods of recording place-name data in "hence the name": Berwickshire parishes along the Anglo-Scottish Border as described in the Ordnance Survey Name Books' (*JSNS* 9[2015] 83-96).

A very accessible article which 'sample[s] and celebrate[s] the great wealth of place-names' (p. 5) is Diana Whaley's informative and wide-ranging Cameron lecture from 2015, 'The Other Millennium: English Place-Naming after the Norman Conquest' (*JEPNS* 46[2014] 5-31). The history and etymology of individual place-names is (re-)examined in several contributions: 'Oundle, Northamptonshire' by Richard Coates (*JEPNS* 47[2015] 40-44); '*Odencolc* revisited and revised' by Paul Luscombe (*JEPNS* 47[2015] 5-15); 'A Suffolk miscellany: East Bergholt, Gulpher, Harkstead, Hussey Green, *Maidstone*, Orwell, Purton Green, Rodbridge, *Throughton*, Undley, Walsham le Willows, Wenhaston, Whitton' by Keith Briggs (*JEPNS* 47[2015] 19-37); 'Buttington and Buttington (or vice versa): a tale of two names' by David Horovitz (*JEPNS* 47[2015] 38-54); 'The Contested Etymology of Devil's Peak / Duiwelspiek along Table Mountain' by Bertie Neethling (*NomAf* 30[2016] 84-95); 'The Etymology and History of the Placename "Des Moines"' (*Names* 63[2015] 109-117). Individual name elements are the focus of attention in the following articles: 'The meaning of *dinge* in the names of buildings' by Peter McClure and George Redmonds (*JEPNS* 46[2014] 32-39); 'Old English *sāte* and *sātan*' by John Baker (*JEPNS* 46[2014] 45-81); 'Searching for early drove roads: *hrȳðer*, *mersc-tūn* and *heord-wīc*' by Ann Cole (*JEPNS* 47[2015] 55-88). Sheila M. Young takes a look at some other well-trodden paths in 'The Eternal Ascent: an exploratory treatise on mountain route names' (*JSNS* 10[2016] 137-205). The methods by which names can shift through differing linguistic and geographical contexts are investigated by Adrian Koopman in 'Margate, Murray, *mossambicensis* and muslin: a look at 'travelling' toponyms' (*NomAf* 29[2015] 33-52). Margate in KwaZulu-Natal is transferred from the English town of the same name; the surname *Murray* is derived from the Scottish place-name Moray; the name of Mozambique is captured in the scientific name *Pseudobersama mossambicensis* (False White-Ash); the fabric *muslin* is derived from the name of the city of Mosul in Iraq. Each of these processes of 'travelling' raise important issues about the semantics of names. Neil Larry Shumsky pursues figurative processes of naming in 'Toponyms of a Different Type: Metaphors as Placenames and Place Nicknames' (*Names*



64[2016] 127-37), and Jan Tent sheds light on ‘Antecedent Generics: How Capes, Lakes, Mounts, and Points are named in the Antipodes’ (*Names* 64[2016] 148-57).

Questions of cultural contact are raised by Richard Coates in his argument that Maisemore near Gloucester, Dolday in Worcester, and Mardol in Shrewsbury are all of Welsh origin and attest to the presence of ‘Welsh markets in marcher towns’ on the border with England (*Nomina* 38[2015] 17-31). Beatrice Lantern debates the status of place-names as cultural archives in ‘Toponyms as a collective experience: The Ndebele Exodus from Zululand to present-day KoBulawayo in Zimbabwe’ (*NomAf* 29[2015] 53-68). Simon Taylor looks at “‘StronPatnaHachalas or the Oxterhill’: place-names and language-contact in the Beaulieu area, Inverness-shire’ (*JSNS* 9[2015] 63-82). Bertie Neethling explores colonial and decolonialising processes involved in ‘Naming and Renaming of South African Warships’ (*NomAf* 29[2015] 97-111); the names of many ships were changed after the election of 1994 ushered in a new democratic politics. The decolonising shift away from the English language is also discussed by Mape Mohlomi and Maleshoane Rapeane-Mathonsi, in ‘The use of Sesotho names for advertisements: The case of financial institutions and cellular network companies in Lesotho’ (*NomAf* 30[2016] 48-31), and by Rosaleen O. B. Nhlekisana, in ‘The significance of Setswana names of business enterprises in Botswana’ (*NomAf* 30[2016] 49-59). The post-colonial landscape is also the focus of Peter E. Raper’s article, ‘Mapping Toponymic Evolution in Southern Africa: Diversity and Heritage’ (*NomAf* 30[2016] 125-36), in which he notes the growing recognition of Bushman place-names and the efforts being made to preserve them.

Publications on literary onomastics for 2015-16 include those selected for the special issue (2) of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics* (2016) on ‘Names in Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and Mystery’. Dorothy Dodge Robbins revisits Daphne du Maurier’s novel *Rebecca* (1938), further examining its onomastically-invisible narrator, in ‘R is for Rebecca: A Consonant and Consummate Haunting’ (*Names* 64[2016] 69-77). Using both literary and non-literary examples, Michal Ephratt asks ‘What’s in a no-name?’ (*OnCan* 94[2015] 1-34), a concept he defines as ‘leaving out the individual’s singular name by which he or she is identified when the mention of that name is anticipated’ (p. 11). Shoshana Milgram Knapp explores ‘Ayn Rand’s *Anthem*: Self-Naming, Individualism and Anonymity’ (*Names* 64[2016] 78-87), examining the role of formulaic, depersonalised names and name-claiming in the dystopian tale. Marinette Grimbeek discusses satirical commercial naming in ‘Wholesale Apocalypse: Brand Names in Margaret Atwood’s *Oryx and Crake*’ (*Names* 64[2016] 88-98). Kara Kennedy looks at constructions of otherness in ‘Epic World-Building: Names and Culture in *Dune*’ (*Names* 64[2016] 99-108). Laurel Sutton, in ‘Aliens are just like us: Personal Names in The Legion of Super-Heroes’ (*Names* 64[2016] 109-119), considers the parallels between the everyday naming practices in English-speaking US communities and the names given to these thirty-first century teenage super-beings. A further publication that deserves mention here is Christopher L. Robinson’s ‘A Sense of the Magical: Names in Lord Dunsany’s *The King of Elfland’s Daughter*’ (*Names* 63[2015] 189-99).

In ‘*Smelt and Mary Scotland*: Nicknaming in Frank Macdonald’s *A Forest for Calum*’ (*OnCan* 95[2016] 1-21), William Davey argues that Macdonald succeeds in capturing a convincing representation of real-life anthroponymic practice in his Cape Breton novel. Adam Meyer examines the relationship between the names of authors and their characters in ‘Bi-Modal Name and Tragicomic Fate: Delmore Schwartz’s *Shenandoah* Fish and Thane Rosenbaum’s *Duncan Katz*’ (*Names* 63[2015] 171-82). In “‘The Course of a Particular’: Names and Narrative in the Works of Joseph Mitchell’ (*Names* 63[2015] 3-15), Michael Adams examines the special significance of names in this writer’s work, noting that ‘Mitchell’s narrative naming strategies are of existential importance’ (p. 11). Adrian Koopman examines the poetic uses of toponyms in ‘From Armagh to Slieve Gullion:

Creating Landscapes in Hewitt's Poem 'Ulster Names' (*NomAf* 30[2016] 45-61). He reflects on John Harold Hewitt's construction of 'an internalised landscape, where the poet can be seen as part of the landscape while simultaneously the landscape is part of the poet' (p. 45). In 'On the Translation of Names in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*: a study in Onomastic Acculturation' (*Names* 64[2016] 138-47) Lindsey N. H. Chen discusses the challenge of Sinicising the original names and the strategies employed by Fu Dong Hua. Moving to another medium, James O. Butler evaluates 'The Psychosocial Ramifications of Videogame Naming and Representation in the early years of The Simpsons' (*Names* 63[2015] 210-19). He argues that the satirical use, in the popular cartoon, of videogame names parodying well-known contemporary titles reiterated negative stereotypes about gaming, reflecting 'prevailing social concerns' (p. 218).

Stepping back in time, Keith J. Fitzpatrick-Matthews article, 'The xxiii ciuitates britannię of the *Historia Brittonum*: Antiquarian Speculation in Early Medieval Wales' (*JLO* 4[2015] 1-19) revisits this recently reappraised medieval text to develop the study of the twenty-eight *ciuitates* names, last scrutinised by Kenneth Jackson (*Antiquity* 12[1938] 44-55). He demonstrates that while interpretation of many of these names remains problematic, they are important because of what they impart about ninth-century Welsh perceptions of Roman Britain, and because 'the compiler of the list has preserved for us what may well have been the descendants of spoken forms of the Roman era unrecorded at the time' (p. 16). Andrew Breeze revisits the theme of Fitzpatrick-Matthews' paper in 'Historia Brittonum and Britain's Twenty-Eight Cities' (*JLO* 5[2016] 1-16). Here Breeze re-examines the explanations for these puzzling names, providing several alternative suggestions. For example, he argues that *Cair Colun*, generally understood to refer to Colchester, has been misunderstood, since '[a]n Essex city hardly concerned the Welsh', suggesting instead that '*Colun* is more probably an erroneous reading of *Clut* or *Clud* (perhaps via "Clun") and so referring to *Caer Clut*, *Caer Glut*, or Dumbarton (NS 4075), capital of the Strathclyde Britons' (p. 6). According to Breeze, the list of *ciuitates* names includes 9 monastic sites 'between Usk and Wye [as] the core material', with a 'selection of English (arch)episcopal cities [...] excluding ones not on Roman sites', and a scattering of names from elsewhere—'a startling rag-bag' (p. 13). Continuing the medieval theme, Breeze proposes in his article, 'The Arthurian Battle of Badon and Braydon Forest, Wiltshire' (*JLO* 4[2015] 20-30), that Braydon, near Swindon in Wiltshire, England, was the site of the battle said to have taken place at Mount Badon, a location documented in literary and historical sources.

Richard Coates offers 'A concise theory of meaningfulness in literary naming within the framework of The Pragmatic Theory of Properhood' (*JLO* 4[2015] 31-34). Here he examines literary names that he regards as 'problematic' for his Pragmatic Theory of Properhood (developed in a range of papers since 2000) due to their incorporation of lexical meaning through 'interpretable elements' (p. 31). It is a tenet of his theory that 'a name has no sense, i.e. no lexical meaning' (p. 31) and he maintains that his theory is not undermined by what other commentators have freely called 'meaningful names'—such as the character called *Badger*, who is literally a badger, in Kenneth Grahame's novel *The Wind in the Willows* (1908). Rather, he argues, 'any semantically aware and intentional literary naming actually consists of [...] the *repotentiation* or *resemanticization* of etymology' (p. 32). Using the example of *Christian* (whose journey is generally read as an allegory of a Christian spiritual journey) in John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), and by looking at the process of translating literary names such as '*Crookshanks* in J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* novels [which] appears in German as *Krummbein*, a literal equivalent with the exception of the loss of the English plural suffix', Coates argues that 'whilst **sense** is necessarily accessed in the case of lexical items, it is **etymology** [that is accessed] in the case of names, perhaps amounting to something resembling **sense** on the first encounter if the etymology is



transparent’ (p. 33). Onomastic theory is also the focus of Carl-Erik Lundbladh’s article, ‘Prototypical definition of names’, which considers the category name to have fuzzy boundaries (*Nomina* 38[2015] 71-84). He argues that ‘whether something is a name or not can be determined by an intuitive feel for language, and settled by semantic rather than morphological or syntactic criteria’ (p. 71), a stance that appears to allow for a range of subjective interpretations, since intuitions are far from uniform. Disputes over what *exactly* constitutes a name have been revisited over several millennia, and show no sign of abating.

Marie Nelson’s paper ‘From Honor to Ridicule to Shame to Fame: The Naming and Re-Naming of Túrin Son of Húrin’ (*JLO* 4[2015] 34-42) takes a close look at one of the points of onomastic interest in J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Children of Húrin* (2007). Nelson maps the changing identities and roles of Túrin to his protean onomastic incarnations including ‘Turambar, the Master of Doom’, ‘Mormegil’ (‘black sword’), ‘Neithan the Wronged’, ‘Agarwaen, the Bloodstained, Son of Ill-fate’, and ‘Gorthol, the Dread Helm’. William Sayers’ article, ‘Norse “Loki” as Praxonym’ (*JLO* 5[2016] 17-28), draws on Loki’s ‘essential identity’ in Snorri Sturluson’s *Skáldskaparmál* to critique of a number of previous suggestions for the etymology of his name, arguing that it should be understood as ‘a praxonym designating him as the agent of specific actions and practises’, which is ‘derived from the Indo-European root \*lok- “to blame, accuse”’ (p. 25). In ‘Ragnarøk: An Elegy’ (*Names* 64[2016] 36-40), Michael Adams laments the fact that the traditionally powerful, dreadful, and awe-inspiring term—Ragnarøk, signifying the ‘Last Battle’ of Scandinavian legend—appears as a simple word denoting ‘a mess’ in the Danish detective novel *Kvinden i Buret* (*The Woman in the Cage*) by Jussi Adler-Olsen (2008).

While reflecting on this unusual example of a name becoming a noun, Adams is nevertheless distracted by the idea that the world will end, ‘not with an onomastic bang, but with a lexical whimper’ (p. 39). That remains to be seen, but it can however be said with great surety that the years 2015-16 presented the onomastic community with a veritable explosion of research publications, emphasising the strength and breadth of the subject.

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Cox, Barrie. *The Place-Names of Leicestershire Part 7: West Goscote Hundred and the Leicestershire Parishes of Repton and Gresley Hundred* (Survey of English Place-Names, Vol. 91). EPNS. [2016] pp. xxvii + 387. £45 ISBN 9 7809 0488 9925.

Hanks, Patrick, Richard Coates and Peter McClure, eds. *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*. OUP. [2016] pp. cxx + 2992. £400 ISBN 9 7801 9967 7764.

Hough, Carole, with Daria Izdebska, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Names and Naming*. OUP. [2016] pp. xxiii + 771. hb £95 ISBN 9 7801 9965 6431, pb £35 ISBN 9 7801 9881 5532.

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Martin, Marcienne. *A Name to Exist: The Example of the Pseudonym on the Internet*. CambridgeSP. [2016] pp. xix + 155. £41.99 ISBN 9 7814 4388 5225.

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Puzey, Guy, and Laura Kostanski, eds. *Names and Naming: People, Places, Perceptions and Power*. MIMBr. [2016] pp. xxiv + 258. hb £119.95 ISBN 9 7817 8309 4912. pb £39.95 ISBN 9 7817 8309 4905.

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Vanguri, Star Medzerian, ed. *Rhetorics of Names and Naming*. Routledge. [2016] pp. 10 + 224. £110. ISBN 9 7811 3891 0638.

Wills, Elspeth. *Abbotsford to Zion: the Story of Scottish Place Names around the World*. Birlinn. [2016] pp. xv + 240. £9.99 ISBN 9 7817 8027 4072.