

Franconia). Genuine *-ing(en)*-names containing descriptive terms are not certainly attested in Reitzenstein's material. The Bavarian *-ing(en)*-names cannot be seen in isolation. In a German context, they should be compared in the first instance with the *-ingen*-names in Württemberg, but in the general context of Germanic onomastics, their relevance for the situation in England is obvious. Reitzenstein has provided us with a readily-accessible corpus for comparative purposes, and it is to be hoped that those involved in research into early English names will draw upon it. The same is true of his material for the names in *-heim*, though it should be remembered that this name-element is less frequent in Bavaria than in the areas of heavy Frankish settlement on the Middle Rhine.

There is a fundamental difference between the areas of early settlement in Upper and Lower Bavaria, Swabia and the southern and western parts of Franconia on the one hand, and the areas of Carolingian and medieval colonization in northern and eastern Franconia on the other. In northern Franconia, we find secondary place-names of a seignorial character formed from the element *-hausen* < OHG *hūsun*, dative plural of *hūs* 'house'. An example of this type is Elfershausen (Lower Franconia), *Adalfrideshusom* 780-802 (1607), *Adalfrideshusa* 953, whose first element is the OHG personal name *Adalfrid*. In eastern Franconia, north and east of Bamberg, there is a noticeable Slavonic element in the toponymy. Here we find such names as Mitwitz (Upper Franconia), *Minrwizc* 1266, a compound of the Slavonic personal name **Min* and the collective suffix *-ovici*. We also find hybrids, such as (Markt) Taschendorf (Middle Franconia), *Toschendorf* 1285 (1407), a compound of the Slavonic personal name *Toš* with OHG, MHG *-dorf*.

In the course of this review, it has been possible only to pick out particular aspects of the Bavarian place-names treated in Reitzenstein's dictionary. There is, of course, much more. Roman settlements are preserved in such names as Passau, while Kempten reminds us of the Celtic settlements of the pre-Christian era. We also find 'Old European' river-names, such as Iller and Isar. Naturally there are detailed entries for the names of such cities as Augsburg, Munich, Nuremberg, Regensburg and Würzburg. The forms are carefully chosen and there is a comprehensive bibliography. Reitzenstein has presented us with an admirable piece of scholarship at a reasonable price. It is exactly what its title says—a dictionary of Bavarian place-names. A list of elements with short discussions would certainly enhance the work, but we can be grateful to Reitzenstein for having provided us with such an accurate and well-documented survey. It is to be hoped that it will be widely used not only in its native land, but also by toponymists in England and Scandinavia.

JOHN INSLEY

WARE, WYE, WATFORD

Paul Jennings

I never know whether to be surprised or not when I am told that foreigners find English extraordinarily difficult. On the one hand it is less rational, more 'given', than, say, French or Spanish, which have the air of being mental constructions; and it is more manifold, more European, than, say, German. On the other hand there is, surely, about most English words an ultimate rightness which ought to strike everyone, including foreigners, as the final perfection reached in man's art of naming. I don't mean the obvious, satisfying onomatopoeia of words such as *bang*, *dribble*, *snivel*, *splotch* (all my French dictionary can do for *splotch* is *grosse tache*—I ask you!); for there is a more subtle, allusive onomatopoeia in words which have nothing to do with actual sound: *sausage*, *elation*, *leaf*, *humdrum*; if boredom made an actual noise, that's what it *would* sound like; *hum*, *drum*, *hum*, *drum*.

Our island is the home of a magical aptness, the ancient tussocky fields are the nearest approach, so far, to that ever-new Garden of Eden in which, as Mr W. H. Auden recently reminded us, Adam's first task was to give names to the creatures. If anyone doubts this, let him consider the very names of our towns. For they not only describe places. They carry wonderful overtones, they seem to have been drawn from some huge, carelessly profuse stock of primal meaning, to have come out of the very bag from which Adam got his names. Let me illustrate with a few examples from this vast English treasury of subconscious meaning:

This piece is reprinted, with the kind permission of Mrs Celia Jennings, from Paul Jennings, *The Jenguin Pennings* (Harmondsworth, 1963). It was first printed in the 1950s in his column, 'Oddly Enough', which appeared weekly in *The Observer* from 1949 to 1966. His essay suggesting the hidden meanings of English place-names has since been widely imitated; but this first example by 'the most consistently original comic writer of our century' deserves reprinting. Paul Jennings died in 1989; *The Paul Jennings Reader*, edited by Griff Rhys Jones, is in print, published by Bloomsbury Publishing Ltd.

- babbacombe** n. An idle or nonsensical rumour. 'It's just a lot of b.'
- barnstaple** n. Mainstay, keystone. 'Mrs Thomas is the b. of our committee.'
- bawtry** adj. Used of windy and rainy cold weather. 'A b. day.'
- beccles** n. Ailment of sheep, cf. the Staggers, the Twitches, Quarter-ill, the Jumps.
- bovey tracey** adj. Headstrong, wilful. 'None of your b.t. ways here, Miss!'
- brasted** adj. (colloq.). Term of humorous abuse. 'The b. thing's come unstuck.'
- buckfastleigh** adv. (arch. and poet.). Manfully. '*Aye, and right buckfastleigh, lad*' (Hardy).
- cromer** n. A mistake, bungle. 'You made a c. there.'
- dunstable** adj. (arch.). Possible. '*If 'tis dunstable he'll do't, my lord*' (Shak.).
- dungeness** n. Uninterestingness. 'A suburb of extraordinary d.'
- erith** v. (obsol.). Only in the third pers., in old proverb 'Man erith, woman morpeth.'
- glossop** n. Dolt, clot. 'Put it down, you silly g.'
- holyhead** n. Hangover.
- ilkley** adj. Having large elbows.
- kenilworth** n. A trifling or beggarly amount. 'He left her nobbut a kenilworth in his will.'
- kettering** adj. from v. **ketter** (obsol.). Like the flight of a butterfly.
- leek** adj. Very cold.
- lostwithiel** n. Ne'er-do-well.
- lowestoft** n. A subterranean granary.
- lydd** adj. Useless, defunct, inactive.
- maesteg** adv. (Welsh). Musical direction to Welsh choirs to sing *maestoso* but at the same time brightly.
- manningtree** n. A gallows.
- midhurst** n. Maturity, fruition. 'His career was in its m.'
- morpeth** see **erith**.
- persnore** adv. (arch.). Certainly, for sure. '*Persnore thou'rt damn'd*' (Webster).
- priddy** adj. Neat.
- rickmansworth** n. (legal). Ancient nominal rent paid to lord of manor for hay. Always paired, in mortgage documents, with—

- stevenage** n. (legal). Ancient nominal rent paid to lord of manor for stones.
- thirsk** n. A desire for vodka.
- uttoxeter** n. A charlatan, usually a quack doctor.
- wembley** adj. Suffering from a vague *malaise*. 'I feel a bit w. this morning.'
- woking** pres. part. of v. to woke (obsol.). Day-dreaming.