

Kustaa Vilku na, Etunimet, Keuruu 1976. 328 pp.

Kustaa Vilku na, member of the Finnish Academy, well-known ethnographer and distinguished public figure, has made a name for himself mainly by studying the traditional economic life of the Finnish peasantry and the customs connected with it. Neither has he overlooked linguistic problems. For a long time he has been known as a specialist in onomastics. He has made a special contribution to the study of first names.

In 1947 K. Vilku na published together with Hannes Teppo a booklet called «Etunimikirja» (A Book of First Names), which contains a list of names and three longer articles about first names by K. J. Ståhlberg, A. Maliniemi and himself. A survey of the favourite Finnish names of the period ends the work. The booklet was followed in 1959—60 by two editions of a small name lexicon called «Oma nimi ja lapsen nimi» (One's own Name and a Child's Name) and in 1969 by «Suuri nimipäiväkalenteri» (A Large Calendar of Name Days).

After a long period of work K. Vilku na completed a new book in 1976 called «Etunimet» (First Names) which is rather a bulky name lexicon. Everybody interested in the meaning, origin, history and area of distribution of names will find this book informative.

The book begins with a short introductory part «Kenen nimipäivä ja miksi?» (Whose Name Day and Why?, pp. 9—13) in which it is said when and why the custom of name days came into being. This introductory part is to the point because such a tradition is of long standing in Finland. In the following chapter «Suomalainen etunimistö» (Finnish First Names, pp. 14—28) one can find a good concise survey of Finnish first names and their development.

An alphabetical list of names (pp. 32—279) takes up the largest part of the book. The more than 1350 entries give, in most cases, the name day and the occurrence in name almanacs. The name articles are of different length and thoroughness, but the author has nearly always tried to explain the origin and give the corresponding names of the other nations. Thus, when dealing with *Johannes* it is pointed

out that the name comes from the Hebrew *Jochanan* 'Yahweh be merciful' and the author has given the German variants *Hans, Hannes*, English *John, Johnny, Jack*, French *Jean*, Spanish *Juan*, Italian *Giovanni*, Russian *Ivan, Vanja*, Danish *Johan, Jon, Jens, Jan*, Hungarian *János*, Estonian *Jaan, Juhan, Ants*.

It has required much work to explain the origin and meaning of foreign first names as many authors have explained one and the same name in several ways. In such cases K. Vilku na has given the most plausible variants.

It is a known fact that first names coming from one language into another become adapted, they change their original form and acquire a native one. Alongside ancient first names and new names derived from native word stems also loan-names, i.e. immediate cognates of foreign names are considered to be native first names. The fact that each name entry comprises all the popular variants and derivatives coming from one stem, which are used in Finland makes the book especially valuable for scientific workers in several fields (historians, specialists in onomastics, etc.). For instance, *Johannes* has given over 40 Finnishlike cognates.

It is not superfluous to point out that the author has often added data on a first name's occurrence in placenames, and this provides valuable additional information for any specialist in onomastics. Thus, the popular variants of *Frans, Ranssi, Rantsi*, etc. can be found in the parish name *Rantsila* and the farm name *Ranttila*. The author has tried to give women's names originating from men's names and vice versa. The name *Frans* has given the following women's names *Franselia* and *Fransilia* on the basis of which *Fransilja, Silja* and *Fransina* have developed. The latter in its turn has given *Siina, Siinu, Sinttu*.

It is natural that a great part of the names in the lexicon consists of Finnish first names, among which are ancient Finnish (*Ahti, Arpia, Kaipia, Lemmitty*) and new names (*Anelma*, derived from the verb *anoa, Arja, Eija*). The author has often shown which outstanding personality first used one or another new name. The book

includes a large number of ancient Scandinavian names taken from Swedish almanacs in Finland (*Aslög, Atle, Birger, Bo, Bror, Dag, Eivor*), which are also in use in Finnish areas. The lexicon likewise gives biblical names (*Batseba, Efraim, Esaias*), Latin (*Amanda, Felix*), Greek (*Dionysius, Dorotea, Eufrosyne, Eusebios*), German (*Arnd, Elmer, Ernst*), English (*Edvard, Edwin, Etel*), French (*Annette*), Russian (*Anja, Artemi, Boris*), Estonian (*Merike, Salme, Virve*) and other names. The author has used E. Rajandi's «Raamat nimedest», Tallinn 1966 (A Book of Names), therefore the book is rich in comparative material drawn from Estonian.

At the back of the book there is a bibliography (pp. 280—283) and an extensive index (pp. 284—327) which make the book easy to use.

«Etunimet» by K. Vilkuna is also useful for parents because the right of naming one's child in the way one wishes does not always yield the best results. The majority of foreign and loan-names are given to children without the least idea of their original meaning. A glance into the book helps us avoid quite a number of mistakes. A child ought to have a name with which he or she could go through life without feeling embarrassment. Of course, the book also contains the names of elderly people which suited the requirements and taste of former days. Grandfathers and grandmothers, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters can all find their names in this book.

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Финно-угристика I. Межвузовский тематический сборник научных работ, Саранск 1978. 186 с. (Мордовский государственный университет)

В первом межвузовском сборнике «Финно-угристика», созданном по инициативе кафедры мордовских языков Мордовского государственного университета им. Н. П. Огарева, в основном представлены работы сотрудников местных вузов (университета и педагогического института) и научно-исследовательского института. В редактировании и подготовке к печати приняли участие ученые Тартуского государственного университета (П. Алвре) и Института языкознания АН СССР (А. П. Феокистов). Рецензируемый выпуск — тематический. Основное внимание уделено проблемам мордовского языкознания.

Особое место в сборнике принадлежит статье А. П. Феокистова «Из истории мордовской письменности II половины XIX века», так как ее публикация проливает дополнительный свет на историю дореволюционной мордовской письменности. До сих пор существует мнение, что до Октябрьской революции мокша и эрзя не имели письменности. На основе многолетних архивных изысканий А. П. Феокистов приходит к выводу, отрицающему такое представление. Появление

первых мордовских памятников письменности на базе русской графики, как показал исследователь, относится еще к XVIII в. Из памятников раннего периода, обнаруженных А. П. Феокистовым, в статье рассматривается книжка «Кода русня кстиндасть», изданная в 1891 г. в Казани. Анализируя ее фонетические и грамматические особенности и сравнивая их с современными нормами мордовских языков, А. П. Феокистов доказывает, что начиная со второй половины XIX в. мордовские переводы выполнялись с большим мастерством, так как к переводческой деятельности все чаще привлекались носители мордовских языков, поэтому фонетические и грамматические нормы мордовской письменности второй половины XIX в. во многих случаях были уже весьма близки к современным. Итоги изучения текста книги автор статьи выносит за рамки чисто лингвистических выводов. По его мнению, рассматриваемая книжка представляет собой не просто перевод русского текста, а и своеобразное художественное повествование об истории крещения Руси. И уже со второй стра-