

Introduction to the
Dictionary of Medieval Names from European Sources

Dr. Sara L. Uckelman
eic@dmnes.org
@SaraLUckelman, @theDMNES

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DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL NAMES FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES

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A Dictionary of given names found in European sources between 500 and 1600, with etymological information, information about usage and distribution, and other relevant information.

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Currently:

- 54515 citations of 2322 names (finalized); 63841 citations of 6008 names (total)
- From 519 to 1599.
- Covering: England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Spain, Portugal, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Ukraine, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Malta, Italy, France, the Low Countries, Switzerland.

Who?

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Sara L. Uckelman, Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Durham University, eic@dmnes.org.

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- Genora Grim, UCL
- Rebecca Le Get, La Trobe
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Subject Matter Experts:

- Julie Stampnitzky Kahan, Beitar Illit (Hebrew)
- David Cameron Staples, Melbourne (Gaelic)

Technical Guru: Dr. Joel Uckelman

When?

Right now!

When?

Right now!

... And probably for decades to come.

Where?

<http://dmnes.org/>



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<http://dmnes.wordpress.com>

Why?

- A resource for:
 - ▶ Linguists and philologists.
 - ▶ Historians.
 - ▶ Genealogists.
 - ▶ Re-enactors.
 - ▶ Parents.
- To fill a lacuna.
- Big data!

To fill a lacuna (1)

Recent significant interest in lexicography of medieval languages:

- Middle English Dictionary
- the TLFi project (Old French)
- Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources
- Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources
- Anglo-Norman Dictionary
- Dictionary of the Scots Language
- Dictionnaire Étymologique de l'Ancien Français

To fill a lacuna (2)

Why document a language?

Unlike some other cultural legacies, languages leave no trace in the archaeological record. There's often no trace in the written record, either.

Only a small portion of the world's estimated 7,000 languages are well-documented in places like dictionaries and grammar books. Those that are least well-documented are the most endangered.

Daniel W Hieber, "Renaissance on the bayou: the revival of a lost language", <https://theconversation.com/renaissance-on-the-bayou-the-revival-of-a-lost-language-43958>

To fill a lacuna (3)

- Names are part of the language
- Importance for vernaculars
- Problem of invented names

Big Data

- Cross-linguistic/cross-cultural patterns and trends.
 - ▶ Patterns of diminutive and hypocoristic usage
 - ▶ The eclipse of native names by “Christian” names in the 12th C
 - ▶ Distinctly “Protestant” names.
 - ▶ Migration and multiculturalism.
- Scholarship beyond the English language.
 - ▶ “Made-up”/invented names: Shakespeare, J.M. Barrie, Neil Gaiman
- Name/gender tools; OCR; etc.

How?

Primary motivating consideration: Document *everything*.

- Every change to every file is recorded, along with who made the change.
- Track responsibility (“blame”) for errors.
- Assign authorship credit:

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How?

Why this way?

- Stable citations; reconstruction of thought processes.
- Particularly important for historically-oriented projects.
- Focus on perfection/completion erases contributions.
- We should provide the info that we ourselves are interested in.

Now for some fun!

Color names

- Red: Rubeo, Russa, Rothard, Rothward, Vermilia/Vermilius
- Brown: Brun/Bruna, Brunhard, Duncan, Dunstan, Dunwine
- Gold: Aurea/Aureas, Auriana, Goldiva, Goldwine, Mangold, Meingold
- Green: Emerald, Viridis
- Blue/purple: Hyacinth/Hyacinthe, Indigo, Viola, Yolanda
- Black: Aquila, Aquilina, Fuscian, Macduff, Mauro, Maurice, Mauricia, Melanie, Nigel/Niger
- Silver/white/grey: Albo/Alba, Albin, Argenta, Blanch/Blanche, Blanchefleur, (Caesar), Gavin, (Griselda), Guinevere, Gwenllian, Madwen, Whitehelm, Winifred

Now for some fun!

Hypocoristics and diminutives

