

# Importance of Researches into Personal Names

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## 要 旨

2006年7月20日のことであった。その日は、愛知大学大学院国際コミュニケーション研究科の研究中間発表がおこなわれた。ある学生がアングロ・サクソン期の人名について発表したところ、それが何のためになるのかという質問があった。予期せぬ質問に学生が答えにつまってしまった。本論は、この機会に、人名研究の意義について述べるものである。人名とその原義についての関心は、古代から既にあった。ヘブライ人の人名への関心は、旧約聖書のいたるところに見られる。また、言語によるコミュニケーションにおいて人名の果たす役割は大きい。初対面の人でも、相手の名前を覚えておいて挨拶を交わす時にその人の名前をすかさず出すということは、その後のコミュニケーションを円滑にする潤滑油のようなものである。普通人間は、親から与えられた名前を一つ持つ。ところが、人によっては、政治・社会情勢の関係から、2種類の名前を持たざるを得ない場合もあった。生まれながら与えられた名前を名ることができず、異国の名前を名のといた場合がそうである。辞書類の場合、人名、地名を取り扱うものと、そうでないものがある。かの有名なOEDは人名、地名を除外しているが、ウェブスターの第2版は扱っているものの、ウェブスター第3版では除外される。いわゆる固有名詞の取り扱いについては、論理的、哲学的考察においても対立が見られる。人名の発達を歴史的に概観すると、アングロ・サクソン時代では名字がなく単一の名前だけであったが、ノルマン征服以降名字が発達し、18世紀からはmiddle nameも使われるようになったことが分る。人名についての著作は19世紀半ばにはあったが、本格的な科学研究は19世紀末乃至は20世紀初頭以降のことである。

## Introduction

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2006, was held a meeting for the interim report of the MA thesis for

International Communication, and a student read a paper entitled “An Etymological Study of Personal Names in Bede’s *History*”. On that occasion someone asked what good would that kind of study do. The student was so embarrassed with the unexpected question that she could not answer it, and thus the present writer, on behalf of the student, would like to propose to describe how important and therefore useful are the researches into personal names.

The preparatory and fundamental discussion may begin with the fact that people have obviously been interested in naming since ancient times. A careful reader of the Old Testament would easily find that it includes passages which concern naming or etymology of personal names. Adam, the first man, for instance, is derived from Hebrew ‘*ādām*, which means “man” and is usually preceded by the article, “the man”. Gen. 2:7 includes a sentence which reads “the Lord God formed man of the dust of ground”; here an etymological connection is suggested between ‘*ādām* “man” and ‘*adāmāh* “soil”. It is in Gen. 4:25 that it occurs as the proper name “Adam” for the first time; up to Gen. 4:25 he is called “the man”.<sup>1</sup> It seems that Gen. 3:20, which describes Adam’s calling his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living, suggests an etymological explanation of the name Eve. The Hebrew word for Eve is *hawwāh*, and it is connected with *ḥayāh* “to live”.<sup>2</sup> Modern scholars, however, do not accept the etymology. It is regarded as a folk etymology. Genesis 25: 24–26 concerns Rebekah’s delivery of Esau and Jacob:

24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

25 And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau’s heel; and his name was called Jacob ...<sup>3</sup>

The original meaning of the names of the twins is explained here as “hairy” and “heel grabber”.<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 7:14 includes an important name: “Therefore the Lord himself

1 John L. McKenzie, S.J., *Dictionary of the Bible* (New York and London: Macmillan Publishing Company 1965), p. 12. Eric Partridge, *Origins, An Etymological Dictionary of Modern English*, the fourth edition (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul 1966; first published 1958), p. 6.

2 McKenzie (1965), p. 254.

3 Quoted from *The Bible: Authorized King James Version* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

4 An allusive significance of the passage is discussed by McKenzie (1965), pp. 244–245.

shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel". The name *Immanuel*, which is the Hebrew form of the name, is referred to as Emmanuel in Matthew 1:23, where an etymological description of the name is given: "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us". Such was the ancient Hebrews' interest in personal names.

As will be discussed in the following sections, modern scholars have contributed to the study of personal names.

### **1. Important role played by a personal name in language communication**

On the morning of Monday, August 28, 2006, the present writer was sitting at the breakfast table at a B & B in Oxford, which he had used several times before. The landlady was busy serving the guests, but he dared to ask her if she still remembered him. She answered that she did, and she added, 'You are Mr Tamo ...?' The present writer was very happy with the answer, even though she remembered my name incompletely. It was certainly incomplete, but it should be valued highly. The present writer realizes that people will be pleased when their names are remembered by the other people, and that remembering names or calling the names definitely accelerate communication among people.

Another instance can be given as showing significance of remembering a person's name and calling the person by his name. On the morning of Thursday, August 24, 2006, the present writer was at the airport of Dubai, checking in for the flight for London, Heathrow. His daughter had told him that she would introduce him her friend, a gentleman native to Dubai. She had also told the present writer the name of the gentleman, Khalid Hadi. The present writer repeated the name in his mind, trying to memorize it. After finishing the procedure of checkin, he was waiting for Mr Khalid Hadi. At last he appeared in the traditional costume of Dubai, and came toward the present writer, saying, "Good morning". The present writer, shaking hands with him, said, "I'm pleased to meet you, Mr Hadi", and then Mr Hadi answered with a smile, "Pleasure". We could easily imagine how much Mr Hadi was pleased when he heard his own name on the occasion of the first meeting.

### **2. Having two names—influence of the political situation**

It is strange and unnatural for a Chinese, a Korean or a Japanese to use English names, such as Thomas or Julie, instead of their own names given in their languages

by their parents. However, Christian names such as Joseph and Ignatio which are given to non-European Christians also have nothing to do with the above remark.

The case of Yoshiko Kawashima (川島芳子) is also exception. Her Chinese name was Aishinkakura-kenshi (愛新覺羅顯榘). Her sister, Aishinkakura-kenki (愛新覺羅顯琦), who was the last princess of the Ching dynasty, has another Chinese name, Kin-Mokugyoku (金默玉). They were the victims of the vortex of the social instability caused by the war and revolution.

As one of the similar cases in the western world can be illustrated Queen Emma (982–1052). She was daughter of Duke Richard I of Normandy, where she was born and brought up. She was wife of King Æthelred the Unready from 1002 to 1016, and wife of King Cnute from 1017 to 1035. She is also well-known as the mother of King Edward the Confessor. Her life is narrated in a political tract entitled *Encomium Emmae Reginae*, which was written in praise of Queen Emma in Flanders in 1041–2.<sup>5</sup> The Argumentum of the *Encomium* ends with the following sentence:

His enim animaduersis, o lector, uigilique, immo etiam perspicaci, oculo mentis perscrutato textu, intellige, huius libelli seriem per omnia reginae Emmae laudibus respondere.

[Noticing these matters, O Reader, and having scanned the narrative with a watchful, nay more, with a penetrating eye, understand that the course of this book is devoted entirely to the praise of Queen Emma.]<sup>6</sup>

Here the Queen's name is spelt as Emma, and it is furthermore observed that the Encomiast is consistent in the spelling of the Queen's name as (*regina*) *Emma* in the text of the *Encomium*.<sup>7</sup>

It has etymologically been explained that the name *Emma* was an Old French name, of Germanic (Frankish) origin, and that it was originally a contracted form of the names such as *Ermintrude*, which is comprised of *erm* (*en*) or *irm* (*en*), meaning "entire", and *traut*, meaning "beloved".<sup>8</sup> *A Dictionary of First Names* adds the

5 Alistair Campbell and Simon Keynes, *Encomium Emmae Reginae* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1998; first published 1949), p. xxxix.

6 *Ibid.* pp. 8–9.

7 The name occurs in Book III, Chapter 1 (three times), Chapter 2 (once), Chapter 3 (once), Chapter 6 (once).

8 Patrick Hanks, Kate Hardcastle and Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of First Names*, second edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2006; first edition 1990), pp. 90 and 92.

following comment concerning the name *Emma*:<sup>9</sup>

It was adopted by the Normans and introduced by them to Britain, but its popularity in medieval England was greatly enhanced by the fact that it had been borne by the mother of Edward the Confessor, herself a Norman. In modern times, it was only in moderate use early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century rose sharply in favour in the 1970s and has since remained perennially popular.

The name occurs in variant forms, such as *Emme*, *Imma*, *Ymma*, *Imme*, in some Anglo-Saxon documents.<sup>10</sup> The Queen had an English name also. *Ælfgifu* was her English name, and it was the name always used officially by the Queen.<sup>11</sup> Even the double form *Ælfgifu Imma* occurs in some documents. The following passage of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* refers to the Queen:

1002. Her on þissum geare se cyng gerædde 7 his witan. þ man sceolde gafol gyldon þam flotan. 7 frið wið hi geniman wið þon þe hi heora yfeles geswican sceoldan. Ða sende se cyng to þam flotan Leofsig ealdorman. 7 he þa þæs cynges worde 7 his witena grið wið hi gesætte. 7 þet hi to metsunge fengon 7 to gafle. 7 hi þa þ underfengon. 7 him man þa geald .xxiiii. þusend punda. Ða on gemang þysum ofsloh Leofsig ealdorman Æfic þæs cynges heah gerefan. 7 se cyng hine ða geutode of earde. And þa on þam ilcan lengtene com *seo hlæfdige Ricardes dohtor* hider to lande. On ðam ilcan sumera Ealdulf arēb forðferde. 7 on ðam geare se cyng het ofslean ealle ða Deniscan men þe on Angel cynne wæron on Bricius messe dæg. forþon þam cyng wæs gecydd þ hi woldon hine besyrewian æt his life. 7 syððan ealle his witan. 7 habban syþðan his rice.

[1002. In this year the king (= Æthelred) and his councilors decided to pay tribute to the fleet and to make peace, on condition they ceased from their evil deeds. The king sent ealdorman Leofsig to the fleet and he, at the command of the king and his councilors, arranged a truce with them, and that they should receive maintenance and tribute. This was accepted and they were paid twenty-four thousand pounds. Then in the midst of these events ealdorman Leofsig slew Æfic, the king's 'high-reave,' and the king banished him from the realm. In the same spring *the Lady, Richard's daughter*, came hither to this country. In the

9 *Ibid.*, p. 90.

10 Campbell and Keynes (1998), pp. 55–61.

11 *Ibid.* p. 55.

same summer archbishop Ealdwulf passed away, and in the same year the king gave orders for all the Danish people who were in England to be slain on St Brice's Day [13 November], because the king had been told that they wished to deprive him of his life by treachery, and all councillors after him, and then seize his kingdom.]<sup>12</sup>

In the above passage quoted from the E text Queen Emma is referred to as *seo hlæfdige Ricardes dohtor* "the Lady, Richard's daughter". The OE word *hlæfdige* has developed into the modern English *lady*, but in the account of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* it is used as a title of a king's wife. A very brief description of Emma's coming to England signifies Æthelred's marriage with Emma of Normandy. Incidentally the F text adds her name *Ymma (Ælfgiua)*.<sup>13</sup>

The account of the year 1017 includes a sentence which refers to King Cnut's marriage with Emma: "And þa toforan K1 Augusti het se cyng feccean him þæs oðres kynges lafe Æbelredes him to wife, Ricardes dohtor" (Then before 1 August the king commanded the widow of the late king Æthelred, Richard's daughter, to be brought to him so that she might become his wife).<sup>14</sup> This is the reading of the D text, but the F text adds "þ was Ælfgiue (on Englisc.) Ymma (on Frencisc.)" (who was (called) Ælfgifu in English, and Emma in French).<sup>15</sup>

The account for the year 1035 in the C text includes the following passage:

1035. Her forðferde Cnut cing. on .ii. Id Nouemb. æt Sceftes byrig. 7 hine man ferode þanon to Winceastre. 7 hine þær bebyrigde. 7 Ælfgyfu. 'Imme'. seo hlæfdie. sæt þa ðær binnan....<sup>16</sup>

[In this year King Cnut passed away on 12 November at Shaftesbury; and he was conveyed thence to Winchester and there buried. And Ælfgifu Emma, the Lady, was then residing there....]

12 The OE account is quoted from Charles Plummer, *Two of the Saxon Chronicles* (1892–1899). Modern English translation is quoted from George N Garmonsway, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (London: J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd 1972, repr. 1990; first published 1953). Italics and a parenthesized insertion are by the present writer.

13 Plummer (1892), p. 134; Garmonsway (1972), p. 134.

14 The OE text is quoted from Ernest Classen and Florence E. Harmer, *An Anglo-Saxon Chronicle from British Museum, Cotton MS., Tiberius B. IV* (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1926), p. 68.

15 Plummer (1892), p. 154.

16 *Ibid.* p. 158.

The passage concerns the death of King Cnut. Here occurs the double form of the Queen's name, *Ælfgifu Emma*. Plummer, however, comments at the footnote that "*Imme*" is written above *Ælfgifu* as if it were a gloss to it".<sup>17</sup> Although there are cases in which the Queen is referred to as Emma or *Ælfgifu Emma*, it would apparently be stated that the English name *Ælfgifu* must have been the name that the Anglo-Saxon chroniclers preferred to use. The single form *Imme* occurs in the account for the year 1051 in the C text. According to Plummer, however, the name *Imme* is written on erasure.<sup>18</sup> It is highly probable that the use of the single form *Imme* was not the intention of the chronicler.

### 3. Treatment of personal names in dictionaries

Nouns are traditionally classified into five types; common nouns, proper nouns, collective nouns, material nouns, and abstract nouns. Etymological or semasiological study of the four types of nouns other than proper nouns has made steady progress, but, as McKnight remarks, "the study of English place-names has lagged far behind that of other elements in the English vocabulary".<sup>19</sup> McKnight further states that the scientific study of place-names started at the beginning of the twentieth century.<sup>20</sup> Similar conditions can be observed in the case of personal names, which also come into the category of proper nouns.

The famous *Oxford English Dictionary* (1928 in 10 volumes, 1933 in 13 volumes including the Supplement, 1989 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. in 20 volumes) does not include the personal names such as *Alfred*, *Bede* and *Emma*. It does not deal with place-names, either. The *OED* deals with all the parts of speech except proper nouns. The *OED*'s editorial principle does not regard proper nouns as "common words" and places them outside the province of lexicography.<sup>21</sup> This may be associated with the above remark of McKnight about the tardiness in the study of place-names. On the other hand, *the Century Dictionary* (London: the Times; New York: the Century Co. 1889–91), which comprises 10 volumes, has the ninth volume allotted to proper nouns only. The ninth volume, which made an epoch in the field of proper nouns, is entitled *The Century*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* p. 158.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* p. 172.

<sup>19</sup> McKnight, George Harley, *English Words and Their Back-ground* (New York: Gordian Press 1923), p. 358.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 358–59.

<sup>21</sup> The *OED*, Vol. I, p. xxvii.

*Cyclopedia of Names*, and its subtitle is “a pronouncing and etymological dictionary of names in geography, biography, mythology, history, ethnology, art, archæology, fiction, etc., etc., etc.” It comprises as many as 1085 pages. *Webster’s New International Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition* (1934) contains about 600,000 words. It deals with proper nouns as well as the other kinds of nouns and the other parts of speech. It thus includes the proper names such as *Alfred* and *Emma*, but not *Bede*. However, *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary of the English Language* (1961), which contains 450,000 words, includes no proper names such as *Alfred*, *Bede* and *Emma*. Proper nouns were excluded as a matter of editorial principle.<sup>22</sup> *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language* (1966, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1987) carries out the editorial principle contrary to that of *Webster’s Third*, and includes all the three names mentioned above. *Kenkyusha’s New English-Japanese Dictionary* (1<sup>st</sup> published 1927) holds the principle common to *Webster’s Second* and *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, and thus it deals with proper nouns.

Incidental mention should be made briefly of the encyclopedic dictionaries of biography. The publication of *Who’s Who in America* began in 1899/1900 and it has been continued since then. Its English version, *The Dictionary of National Biography*, published first in 1917. These are the biggest dictionaries that have recorded careers of renowned persons.

*Volume IX of the Century Dictionary*, *Webster’s Second*, *Who’s Who* and the *DNB*, which record personal names and information about persons, were the fruits of the scientific researches in this field of the end of the nineteenth or the beginning of the twentieth century. The chronological table in Appendix shows the rise and development of the study in this field. As far as the information acquired by the present writer is concerned, the earliest work in this field is Lower’s *Essay on English Surnames*, which was published in 1842. It is followed by Ferguson (1858), Lower (1860), Bardsley (1875), Yonge (1884), etc. It seems that the accumulation of the fruits of the researches in the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century provided a background for the publication of *Volume IX of the Century Dictionary* and *Webster’s Second*. The table in Appendix also shows considerable progress in the

22 *Webster’s Second* (p. 4a) states as follows: “It confines itself strictly to generic words and their functions, forms, sounds and meanings as distinguished from proper names that are not generic. Selection is guided by usefulness, and usefulness is determined by the degree to which terms most likely to be looked for are included. Many obsolete and comparatively useless or obscure words have been omitted”.



researches of this field in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

This section is closed with introduction of two works written in early twentieth century. One is H.L. Mencken, *The American Language* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1919), which stands out as one of the notable landmarks in the field of language study. Chapter X (pp. 572–701) of the work, which is entitled ‘Proper Names in America’, discusses surnames and given names. The other is George Harley McKnight, *English Words and Their Background* (New York: Gordian Press 1923). Chapter XXV (pp. 377–392) of the work discusses personal names.

#### 4. History of personal names: from a single name to the use of a surname and a middle name

As early as the seventh and the eighth centuries some of the Japanese people had a surname. They were given their surnames by the emperor when they offered a distinguished service to the Imperial Court.<sup>23</sup> However, it was in 1875 that the Meiji government promulgated an ordinance concerning a surname of the common people, by which they came to be able to bear their surnames.

In England surnames came to be used after the Norman Conquest. Most of the Anglo-Saxons had a single name only. It was usually a compound word, such as *Ælfgar*, *Ælfgifu*, *Ælfred*, *Ælfric*, *Ælfstan*, all of which are composed of *Ælf*- “elf, super-natural being” and *-gar* “spear”, *-gifu* “gift, grace”, *-red* “counsel”, *-ric* “strong, reign”, or *-stan* “stone, gem”. The word *Æthel* “noble” occurs also frequently as the first element of the Anglo-Saxon personal names; *Æthelbald*, *Æthelberht*, *Æthelburh*, *Æthelred*, *Æthelric*, the second element of which is *-bald* “bold, brave”, *-berht* “bright, renowned”, *-burh* “fort, castle”, *-red* “counsel”, or *-ric* “strong, reign”, respectively. The name *Æthelþryð*, which is composed of *Æthel*- “noble” and *-þryð* “strength”, is a girl’s name in Anglo-Saxon, and may arouse an interest of the readers. Its Latinized form was *Etheldreda*, and it was adopted as a given name in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but is now very rare.<sup>24</sup> It has been much altered and remains now as *Audray* (*Audrie*, or *Audry*). There were also uncompounded names, such as *Cytel* ‘kettle’, *Brand* ‘sword’, *Rēad* ‘red’, *Wicga* ‘horse, warrior’.<sup>25</sup> Names such as *Wulf*, *Bæda*, *Ceorl*, *Cutha*, *Offa*, *Duda*, *Hild(a)*, *Hengest*, *Horsa*, *Ine*, *Tucca*, *Wini*, *Hudda*, *Wadda* look like

23 *Nihon Kokugo Daijiten* “A Dictionary of the Japanese Language” (Tokyo: Shogakukan 1975), Vol. 18.

24 Hanks (1990), p. 94.

25 McKnight (1923), p. 378.

uncompounded names, but they may be explained as shortened forms of longer names.<sup>26</sup> Wulfstan, who wrote *Sermo Lupi ad Anglos* “The Sermon of ‘Wolf’ to the English”, used Latin *Lupus* “Wolf” as his pen-name. *Lupus* here, as a matter of course, corresponds to *Wulf*, the first element of his unabridged Anglo-Saxon name. Another characteristic way of naming in the Anglo-Saxon period is the use of an epithet; *Æthelmær the Stout*, *Æthelred the Unready*, *Edward the Confessor*, etc.

After the Norman Conquest a new way of distinguishing people developed. It was the use of a surname as the second element in a person’s name. McKnight (1923, pp. 381–382) assumes the earliest form of a surname to be the patronymic: the Anglo-Saxon suffix *-ing*, as in *Scylfingas* “descendants of Scylf”, is used to express the relation of the posterity with their famous, even remote, ancestor. The patronymic suffix is *-son*, as in *Nelson* “Njal + son”, among Scandinavian peoples. The prefix *Mac-* “son” has the same function in Scotland and Ireland.

McKnight (1923, pp. 383–385) further deals with surnames derived from place-names and names of occupations; *Bret* or *Britton* “native of Brittany”, *Picard* or *Power* “Picardy”, *Craig* “crag”, *Dunne* or *Dun* “hill”, *Tyndall* “Tyne + dale”, *Chaucer* “shoemaker”, *Hunt* “hunter”, *Webb* “Weaver”, *Wright* “worker”, *Webster* “feminine weaver”, etc.

The development of surnames was followed by the use of a third, or middle name, which occurred in England in the eighteenth century.<sup>27</sup> Although it was not so popular before the nineteenth century, it has come to be used generally in the course of time. This can be illustrated with the names of famous English authors. The following authors from the fourteenth century to the nineteenth century do not have a middle name; Geoffrey Chaucer (1340–1400), William Langland (1330?–1400?), Edmund Spenser (1552–1599), Christopher Marlowe (1564–1593), William Shakespeare (1564–1616), John Milton (1608–74), Jonathan Swift (1667–1745), Samuel Johnson (1709–1784), William Wordsworth (1770–1850). The last author on the list, that is to say, William Wordsworth is a poet of the Romantic Revival, but his contemporaries Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834), George Gordon Byron (1788–1822), and Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822) have a middle name. A middle name occurs also in the names of the later authors, such as William Makepeace Thackeray (1811–1863), Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–82), Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894), George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950), James Matthew Barrie (1860–1937), William Butler Yeats (1865–1939), Herbert George Wells (1866–1946).

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 378.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 381.

## Conclusion

Remembering a person's name is a kind of lubricating oil that smoothes language communication, and knowledge of the historical background of personal names is great help in remembering the personal names easily. A personal name can not infrequently tell the nationality of the person. To know the origin of a personal name can tell us the person's nationality, and thus the socio-cultural background of the person, which may avoid the racial or cultural problem or even friction.

In Section 3 of the present article the study of personal names was discussed chronologically, and its tardiness was pointed out in comparison with the other fields of the English vocabulary. It was in the second half of the nineteenth century that works on personal names came to be published, and it was from the end of the nineteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century that personal names came to undergo scientific research. As mentioned in Section 3, the *OED* does not regard proper nouns as "common words" and places them outside the province of lexicography. This kind of attitude to personal names reminds the present writer of a philosophical treatise by John Stuart Mill (1806–73), *System of Logic, Ratiocinative and Inductive* (1843). In Book 1, Chapter 2 of the work Mill discusses proper nouns, and reaches the conclusions that "the only names of objects which *connote* nothing are *proper* names; and these have, strictly speaking, no signification",<sup>28</sup> and that "a proper name is but an unmeaning mark which we connect in our minds with the idea of the object, in order that whenever the mark meets our eyes or occurs to our thoughts, we may think of that individual object".<sup>29</sup> Mill considers that proper names are not connotative, they are without signification, and they are unmeaning marks.<sup>30</sup> Is Mill's view on proper names, or the view on them of someone influenced by Mill's *System of Logic*, related to the *OED*'s placing them outside the province of lexicography? A contrary theory was developed by Gottlob Frege (1848–1925), a German mathematician, logician, and philosopher. In his thesis entitled 'On Sense and Reference' (1892) Frege proposed a comprehensive theory of language, which includes a discussion on proper names. He argues as follows:

A proper name (word, sign, sign combination, expression) expresses its sense,

28 Hornsby, Jennifer and Guy Longworth, *Reading Philosophy of Language* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing 2006), p. 25.

29 *Ibid.*, p. 26.

30 *Ibid.*, p. 29.

stands for or designates its reference. By means of a sign we express its sense and designate its reference.<sup>31</sup>

Mill denied connotation to proper names, whereas Frege attributed sense to them. Frege's theory mentioned above was published at the end the nineteenth century, which was the beginning of the quickening period of manifold researches into personal names.

One significant thing must not be overlooked. There have existed and will exist innumerable persons who have not been registered in the *DNB* or *Who's Who*. Those innumerable persons have been identified by their own names, which means that innumerable personal names exist. Each of those personal names is a historical and cultural heritage, and will continue to be used to identify a person of the future generation. From this viewpoint philological study of personal names is inevitably required.

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31 *Ibid.*, 35.

## Appendix

### Chronological Table of Works on Personal Names

- Lower, M.A., *Essay on English Surnames* (London, 1842)
- Ferguson, Robert, *English Surnames* (London, 1858)
- Lower, M.A., *Patronymica Britannica* (London, 1860)
- Bardsley, Charles Wareing, *English Surnames* (London, 1875)
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