

ITERATIVE PERSONAL NAMES OTHER THAN IN ITALIAN: A BRIEF SAMPLE PROSOPOGRAPHY, ORGANISED PER LANGUAGE

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Iterative personal names other than in Italian: A brief sample prosopography, organised per language

Abstract: In a companion article, I examine the pattern of *iterative names* from Italian. These are such personal names, that the first name is a singular form of the family name. Or then, the family name can be put in relation to a first name, and a particular family bestows precisely that first name (in one of its forms) upon one of its children.

This brief paper has merely the purpose of providing a preliminary overview of the occurrence of such personal names that may be considered in some respect as iterative names, other than from Italian. Analysis is deliberately minimal. We confine ourselves to a sample prosopography.

Several languages or cultures each get a section, but there could be more; e.g., for Georgian prosopography; e.g., Dr. George Giorgobiani is a computer scientist from the Georgian Technical University in Tbilisi. In 2012, Stefanos Stefanou is a government's spokesman in Cyprus.

Sections in this article include: A sample prosopography of English iterative names; A few French iterative names; A few Romanian iterative names; Latinate European iterative names; Scandinavian patronymic iterative names; A few iterative names from the Slavonic languages; Iterative names in Arabic and other Islamic cultures; A smattering of iterative names from various Jewish cultures; Examples from the Israeli onomasticon; Similarly sounding first and last names; Rhyme and quasi-rhyme in personal names.

Keywords: iterative names, prosopography, comparative anthroponomastics, similarly sounding first and last names (names and surnames), rhyme in personal names.

1. Introduction

In a companion article, I examine the pattern of *iterative names* from Italian. These are such personal names, that the first name is a singular form of the family name. Or then, the family name can be put in relation to a first name, and a particular family bestows precisely that first name (in one of its forms) upon one of its children.

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2. A sample prosopography of English iterative names

Iterative names are a pattern that was, and still is productive in Italian. One comes across forms of it in other languages as well. There is no dearth of instances in languages including, e.g., English, or Romanian, or Arabic.

a) *Ford Madox Ford* is the pen-name by which a famous English novelist, editor, and critic is known. His real name was *Ford Madox Hueffer* (1873–1939). Among his novels, the tetralogy *Parade's End*, of 1924–1928.

b) William Carlos Williams (1883–1963) was an American poet and writer, and by profession a physician (Holsapple 1994; Breslin 1970; Wagner 1970; Mariani 1981; Whitaker 1989; Weaver 1971; Koch 1950; Marling 1982; Doyle 1980; Conrad 1990; Clarke 1986; Wallace 1968; Williams 1967). His poems are short and in a free form, but he also published a long epic, *Paterson*, as well as plays and short stories. His book of prose *In the American Grain*, of 1925, combines history and fantasy. There exists a literary studies journal titled *The William Carlos Williams Review*.

c) Arnold Arnold is the author of the *World Book of Children's Games* (Arnold 1973).

d) Jimmy James was one of the British soldiers who died in Afghanistan during the summer of 2009. In the Anglo-Saxon onomasticon, *Jimmy* is a modified form of *James*.

e) James S. Jameson, a big game hunter, artist and traveller, joined Stanley's relief expedition intended to rescue Emin Pasha (a German physician and naturalist) in Equatoria (an Egyptian colony, near Lake Albert, of which Emin was the governor). Jameson remained with the rear column in the Congo, and in the summer of 1888 he died of fever in Bangala.

f) John Paul Jones (1748–1792), an American, served in the Navy in the War of American Independence, and is considered a hero. He then served (1788–1789) as rear admiral in the Russian navy. A character in *In the American Grain* by William Carlos Williams, the latter admittedly quoted John Paul Jones verbatim.

g) Johnnie Johnson, a Second World War pilot, was the British top scoring ace. In praise of Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park, who was the commander in charge of the defence of London during the Battle of Britain, Johnnie Johnson is reported as saying: “He was the only man who could have lost the war in a day, or even an afternoon” (Ogley 2006).

h) Charles Fitzcharles was an illegitimate son of Charles II, King of England. While the latter was an exile in the Spanish Netherlands (now Belgium), took mistresses, including “Catherine Pegge. By her he had an illegitimate daughter who died, and a son who was somewhat unimaginatively named Charles Fitzcharles. Another daughter, Charlotte Fitzroy, was fathered on Elizabeth Killigrew” (Coote 1999: 156). The names of these royal bastards allude to their father being Charles, and in *Fitzroy*, the component *roy* stands for the King.

i) Gerald Fitz-Gerald was professor of Hebrew in the University of Dublin in the late 18th century.

j) David Penry-Davey is a judge at Worcester Crown Court, in England.

k) The name *David Davies* or *David Davis* has been borne by more than one person:

- David Davis is a Tory politician in Britain.
- Another David Davis was a candidate for the Left List for member of the London Assembly, at the elections held on 1 May 2008.
- There was a Welsh man from Pontrhyfen, David Davies, who retired in 1922, at 80, after having been working down in a mine during 73 years (according to a trivia column on p. 39 in the weekly *La Settimana Enigmistica*, year 75, no. 3868, Milan, 13 May 2006).
- The *News Shopper* (Bexley edition, South East London) of 19 August 2009 published, among the readers’ letters on p. 29, a letter from Phillip Gould, a retired policeman living in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales, looking for relatives: “Many years ago I stayed with an aunt and uncle in the area, it could [be] in Dartford or Bexleyheath. They ran Davies the fish shop in the High Street. They had a son, David, and a daughter who I think was called Maureen. I lost all track of them and would like to contact them again. [...]” (my emphasis).

l) Vincent Vincent is a light music performer, whose band is called The Villains. They are from Bethnal Green in London, and their first record is from 2004. “Even admirers of Vincent Vincent and The Villains, who purvey a form of music long considered obsolete (1950s rock’n’roll with a dollop of primitive ska) and are styled like extras from Grease, must admit that novelty is part of the thrill of the Bethnal Green quartet. And thrill they did when debut single On My Own emerged in 2004. Raw, ragged and seemingly played on instruments someone had forgotten to plug in, it was a primordially skanking lo-fi cousin to The Clash’s Rudie Can’t Fail, which sounded weirdly at home in the 21st century. [...] Being so determinedly anachronistic may seem gimmicky, but ask Jack White if wanton primitivism is an obstacle to success. [...]”, according to Andrzej Lukowski (2006).

In contrast to the former, Duran Duran is an English New Wave band, not just one person. The members of this band are Anglo-Saxons, notwithstanding the Spanish name of the band.

3. A few French iterative names

At different historical periods, iterative names have occurred in French. The following sample provides an illustration of different kinds of such iterative names. *Francine Lafrance* is a splendid example.

m) Nicolas de Nicolay was a 16th-century traveller. *His Les Navigations, peregrinations et voyages, faits en la Turquie*, was published in Antwerp in 1577.

n) Léonie Léon (1838–1906) was the influential mistress of the French politician Léon Gambetta (Pillias 1935, 9th edition). It happens to be the case that of her name, it can almost be said that it displays the first name and family name of a fictional character, *Léone Léoni*, of writer George Sand (Sand 1842) in reverse order. It must be said, however, that Léonie Léon was born in the same year as Gambetta, i.e., 1838, thus a few years before Sand's *Léone Léoni* was first published.

o) Marcel Marceau (born in 1923) was a famous mime. In the history of the French language, the suffix *-eau* was a variant of the suffix *-el*. Marcel Marceau's actual name was *Marcel Mangel*. In Nazi-occupied France, he adopted the name of a general from the French Revolution, François Séverin Marceau-Desgraviers, and joined the Resistance. General Marceau was born in Chartres in 1769, defeated the Austrians in Neuwied in 1795, and was fatally wounded in 1796, at Altenkirchen.

p) Francine Lafrance reviewed the *Dictionnaire de belgicisms* by François Massion, in *Arachné*, a bilingual Canadian scholarly journal (Lafrance 1995).

3. A few Romanian iterative names

There occur in Romanian such iterative names that are not dissimilar from ones found in Italy, especially in the form of a first name followed by such a family name which originally was a patronymic. However the following few examples illustrate the phenomenon from the domain of political history, and the family names are composites.

q) Theodor Theodorescu-Braniște was a journalist in Romania between the two World Wars. Armon (2005: 122, fn. 37) quotes him to show how the rise of the far right among the students had been underestimated by the elite of the country, in the early 1920s. Theodorescu-Braniște acknowledged “that they are standing at the brink of a very dangerous downward slope”, yet claimed optimistically: “And as far as the government is concerned, we hope that they have learned the necessary lesson: scheming is no longer acceptable”.

r) Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej (1901–1965) was a Romanian politician: “In 1945, was elected general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party (PCR), a position that he held until his death with the exception of a two-year interval (1952–1954) when he served as premier. Beginning in March 1961, also served as president of the state” (Rotman 2005: 175). *Dej* is the name of a town.

4. Latinate European iterative names

It used to be an especially scholarly onomastic practice, to sign oneself with a Latinised form of one's vernacular name, in Europe up to the early modern period. In this section, we only include two examples.

s) Johannes Janssonius “was among the leading publishers of Dutch (and indeed European) Americana” in the mid–17th century (Schmidt 2001: 96).

t) *Paparonus de Paparonis* is the Latin form which appears in a ribbon painted at the bottom of the portrait of the first archbishop of Spoleto, Paperone De Paperoni. By coincidence, his existence apparently only became known belatedly, to people associated with the Italian branch of those writing or drawing Walt Disney stories; this was well after the character of Scrooge McDuck was given the Italian iterative name *Paperon de' Paperoni* (from *pàpero* ‘duck’).

5. Scandinavian patronymic iterative names

In the onomasticon of the Scandinavian branch of the Germanic languages, iterative names are not rare. Their formation is transparently patronymic.

u) Nils J. Nilsson, an American scholar, is well known in artificial intelligence within computer science.

v) Dr. Astvaldur Astvaldsson, who is affiliated with the School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies of the University of Liverpool, in 2008 became book review editor of the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*.

w) Magnus Magnusson was a British television presenter (a quiz host), as well as an author, and especially a historian, and was also known as a conservationist. He died in January 2007, at the age of 77. An Icelander by background, he spent his childhood in Scotland.

x) Erik Eriksson is a linguist from Umeå University.

y) Erik Erikson is an author in Freudian psychology.

z) Kristian Kristiansen is a scholar whose domain is Scandinavian archaeology, typically Bronze Age Denmark.

aa) Steindor Steindorsson fra Hlodum and Stefan Stefansson published in Iceland a glossary of Icelandic plant names, with the equivalent scientific Latin names (Steindorsson fra Hlodum and Stefansson 1978).

bb) Krister Kristensson carries out medical research at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

6. A few iterative names from the Slavonic languages

Iterative names, again originally patronyms, are to be found in the Slavonic languages as well. Let us consider just a few, including when they are borne by individuals who themselves have been living other than Eastern Europe (or Siberia). Among the four examples listed below, two are borne by persons living in a French-speaking or English-speaking environment.

cc) Ivo Ivić is affiliated with the Department of Infectious Diseases, Split University Hospital, Split, Croatia (Sardelić et al. 2003).

dd) Dr. Nikolay Nikolaev, originally from Bulgaria, is affiliated with the Department of Computing at Goldsmiths College of the University of London.

ee) Peter Petro is an English-language scholar whose specialty is Slovak literature.

ff) Paul Pavlowitch, a cousin of novelist Romain Gary (actual name: *Romain Kacew*, 1914–1980), negotiated with the publisher the appearance of two of Gary's novels that were published under the pen-name *Émile Ajar*, namely, the novel *Gros Câlin* (1974), and then *La Vie devant soi*, that once published in 1975 by the Mercure de France, won the Prix Goncourt. The “affaire Ajar” saw the press make guesses about the identity of the author (Queneau and Aragon were named), but once *le Point* uncovered the role of Paul Pavlowitch, and his kinship to Gary, the latter denied he was Ajar. Yet, after Gary's suicide in 1980, the truth was revealed in a memoir he left, *Vie et Mort d'Émile Ajar*. As to the novel *La Vie devant soi*, it was made into a film featuring Simone Signoret.

7. Iterative names in Arabic and other Islamic cultures

Such male modern Arabic personal names are fairly common, that consist of identical first and last names, and a different middle name; e.g.,

gg) Múṣṭafa Ṣāleḥ Múṣṭafa was the director of the Baghdad Fair, during the 1970s.

hh) Sirḥān Bishāra Sirḥān became notorious when he killed Robert Kennedy, in 1968.

ii) Arif al-Arifun (actually a more correct transcription of his name is *ʿArif al-ʿArifūn*) was an important Palestinian Arab politician in the second quarter of the 20th century, and was an authoritative historian, too. His name instantiates a pattern *X of the Xs*. This is rather unusual in the Arab onomasticon.

Let us also consider a Kurdish example which is onomatically Turkified:

jj) Moradi Golmorad is a German Kurdish historian of the Kurds; in 1992 he published a history of the Soviet-supported, illfated Republic of Mahabad of 1946–1947, on Iran's border with Turkey (Moradi 1992).

As to other Islamic cultures, suffice it to only mention the following.

kk) Abdullah Abdullah was the main rival of the incumbent president Karzai, in the presidential elections held on 20 August 2009 in Afghanistan. In Arab or Islamic countries, the case is frequent of men bearing a name of the pattern *XYX*, or even *XX*.

8. A smattering of iterative names from various Jewish cultures

When it comes to names borne by Jewish individuals, one needs to bear in mind that the personal name may display any out of a spectrum of degrees of acculturation to host cultures. The following few examples are quite disparate, as to their geographic provenience.

ll) Ephraim Marcus Ephraim (1716–1776) lived in Berlin. In a portrait believed to depict him, he wears a short wig, and whereas his chin and cheeks are without hair, his face is nevertheless framed by a short beard, closer to his throat. This is interesting for the history of custom, and may have been the case owing to legislation in Berlin which forbade adult male Jews not sporting a beard, or then it may have been an effect of a mix of innovation and residual traditionalism on the part of the person portrayed. The portrait is on the dust cover of Lowenstein (1994); cf. *ibid.*: p. 46.

mm) David J. David was killed in action, as being a member of a Jewish self-defence group, during an anti-Jewish pogrom in Romania at the time of the retreat of the German occupying troops, during the First World War. In the words of Wilhelm Filderman, the future head of the Union of Romanian Jews: “A few days before the German retreat, the Union [of Indigenous Jews] was informed that anti-Semitic manifestations and violence were being planned. Under the direction of Mișu Negreanu, a member of the bar [a lawyer like Filderman], I organized several self-defense groups. We succeeded in breaking up an attack by the gangsters, and lost but one dead in the fray – young David J. David. As a result of these incidents, the mayor of Bucharest invited the Union to send delegates to a session at which the maintenance of order would be discussed” (Filderman 2004: 107).

nn) Barnett Barnett, a London furrier, sued a man, Moses Mendoza, a tailor, with whom his daughter, Rosetta, had eloped. Mendoza was 38, Rosetta, under 15. The judge, Mr. Cooke, dismissed the case. The trial was reported rather comically in *Punch* of 7 March 1983, under the headline “The Nymph and the Demon” (text and cartoon reproduced in Cowen and Cowen 1998: 118–119).

oo) Solomon Solomon (his official name for secular purposes, his Jewish liturgical name being *Yitzchak ben Yisra'el Halevi*) was a native of Falmouth, in England. He died in Lisbon in 1819. This information appears on a marble slab at a local Jewish cemetery. The commemorative tablet was made in 1875 by the two sons of Solomon Solomon, because the original inscriptions had become obliterated. This information is given by Cardozo de Bethencourt (1903: 268).

pp) Rouben Rouben is one of 36 Jews still living in Bahrain. He sells electronics and appliances from his downtown showroom (Luxner 2006). In the mid-20th century, Bahrain used to have a community of hundreds of Jews usually of Iraqi background. Bahrain is the only Arab country where Jews have been neither persecuted, nor subjected to physical attacks.

qq) Sakaryah Zekharyah (also spelled *Scaria Zacharia*) has edited and translated into Hebrew women’s poetry in Malayalam from the Jewish community which used to live in Kerala, a region of southwestern India (Zekharyah and Gamliel 2005). As a scholar, Scaria Zacharia is affiliated with the Shree Shankaracharya Sanskrit University in India, and is specialised in the study of the Malayalam language, of the Jewish Malayalam language variety, and of Indian Jewish folklore (e.g., as mentioned, folksongs).

rr) In Sec. 4 in the Yiddish short story *Dos meserl* (*The Penknife*) by Sholom Aleykhem (1919 [2011]), a Jewish but secular character (in a religious *milieu*) in Russia has a grotesque iterative name; the child narrator relates: “Even Mr. Hertz Hertznhertz is going around in the courtyard, his head uncovered, he smokes a cigar, he sings a German

song, he stares at me and laughs” (*ibid.*, 2011: 163). Note that in traditional as well as ultra-Orthodox Jewish circles, *Deutsch* used to describe “enlighteners”, secularist modernisers, who among other things would substitute the Yiddish vernacular with a Germanised version, would walk around without a head cover, and would shave their beard. Then again in Sec. 6, the child narrator is ill: “Even the German Jew or Jewish German Mr. Hertz Hertznhertz, with a cigar between his teeth, bends down over my bed his shaven chin, caresses my cheek, and says in German: ‘Gut, gut! Gesund, Gezund! (Well, be in good health!)’” (*ibid.*, 2011: 170). As the short story concludes, the same man is referred to again, but just as “the German”, and he remains unnamed. Daniela Mantovan (2011: 150) mentions the features of that character.

ss) Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858–1922), a journalist best remembered as a Hebrew lexicographer and neologist, was active in Jerusalem from 1881, and is famous for his role in the revival of the Hebrew language. Scholarly work by Haramati (1992: 139–142, 148–149, 220) has unearthed the memory of a forerunner of Ben-Yehuda, Jacob Silberstein, who eventually had independently called himself at first Jacob Ben-Yehuda, and years later, he changed the last name, the patronymic *Ben-Yehuda*, into *Ben-Yehuda Ben-Yehuda* (he signed himself that way in a book published in 1899), and used to be well-known in town for never speaking other than Hebrew, on principle. A rabbi, he had arrived in Jerusalem in 1885, his age at the time being about 48, and died in 1900. At one point, earlier on, he had even gone to prison rather than break his vow (taken around 1860) at a Russian customhouse. In Jerusalem, Silberstein would plead with people in the street of Jerusalem to speak Hebrew; he wasn’t successful. People considered him an oddity, perhaps a nuisance, but respected him.

From the viewpoint of onomastics, because of the repetition, *Ben-Yehuda Ben-Yehuda*, and in respect of biography, because of his attitudes, the language activist [Jacob] Ben-Yehuda Ben-Yehuda in a sense had been a “superlative”, extreme version of [Eliezer] Ben-Yehuda, if not as effective. Titling a section in his book, Haramati calls Jacob Ben-Yehuda Ben-Yehuda “the religious Ben-Yehuda”, in contrast to the famous Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, who was secular. Such a title implies that Jacob Ben-Yehuda was a “variant”, as though, of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. At any rate, it conveys the notion: “this is not the well-known Ben-Yehuda, but rather another one”.

9. Examples from the Israeli onomasticon

Israeli prosopography has its own occurrences of iterative names of various kinds. The following are just a few.

tt) Yitzḥak Yitzḥaki was a rather obscure Israeli politician, who attained some visibility in the 1980s, when he was one of the four founders of (and a disgruntled faction leader within) a short-lived centrist party.

uu) Meir Meir was a journalist and educator. Originally Max Meier, born in Munich in 1886, he moved in 1930 to Palestine, where he taught in Jerusalem, and was known by the name *Meir Meir*, by which he is listed in an old biographical reference book of Jewish Palestine (Kalai 1936, col. 318).

vv) Jonathan (Yoni) Netanyahu (1946–1976) was the commander of the Israeli airborne expedition to Entebbe, Uganda, in 1976, then (and since 1971) under the rule of the gruesome dictator Idi Amin Dada (b. ca. 1925, d. 2003). The raid on the airport managed to rescue the passengers of an airliner hijacked by German and Arab terrorists, and hosted by Idi Amin. Jonathan Netanyahu (the brother of the future Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu: their father was a historian) was to be the only casualty among the rescuers. Besides, an elderly passenger, Dora Bloch, who had been carried away ill into a hospital before the operation, was taken away from the hospital into a bush and killed by Idi Amin's henchmen once the other passengers had been freed. The Hebrew names *Yehonatan* and *Netanyahu* are theophoric names (both of them literally mean "given by G-d"), and they exhibit the same lexical components in a different order. Jonathan (Yehonathan) Netanyahu was usually referred to by the first name *Yoni*, also in media reports.¹

ww) Gil Har Gil is an Israeli landscape architect, affiliated with the firm Gil–Greenstein.

xx) Ori Or (*Orry Orr* is the English spelling he adopted) was a Labour member of Parliament in Israel, who once caused an uproar for making disparaging comments about Israelis of Moroccan extraction, thus rekindling, in that sector, resentment against the Labour Party. His last name literally means 'light' ('luminosity'). The first name is fairly widespread in Israel; its etymology is the name for 'light', in the sense of 'luminosity'.²

yy) Danny Danon is an Israeli member of Parliament (Likud party).

zz) Prof. Sami Samoha (Haifa University) is an Israel Prize Laureate.

10. Similarly sounding first and last names

Also bear in mind such personal names or pen-names that were formed so that they would consist of two similarly sounding names:

aaa) Dana Dunn (a man), born in 1963, from 2007 is chief executive of AOL Europe, a competitor of Google. He spent six years at WebTV before arriving at AOL.

bbb) Prof. Sami Samoha, affiliated with Haifa University, is an Israel Prize Laureate.

ccc) Sigma Sigmand (or Sigmund) was a Romanian Jewish physician, born in 1870. He established an important Romanian medical journal, *Sănătatea* (AnceI 2004: 551).

ddd) *Gala Galaction* was the pen-name of a Romanian clergyman and writer, G. Pishculescu. Because of Gala Galaction's stance in favour of the Jews of Romania, in 1937 the pro-Nazi Iron Guard ideologue Nicolae Ruso claimed about his attitude: "This is an actual transition to Judaism that reflects the vicissitudes of the religious conscience and essentially constitutes a process of theological departure from the ranks of natural faith", as quoted in Armon (2005: 115, fn. 12). In Bessarabia, where like in the rest of interwar Romania, far right activities were strong (with a horrific effect during the Holocaust

¹ The Entebbe airport raid took place in 1976, and inspired several "instant books" that appeared on the same year in Israel and Anglo-Saxon countries: Ben-Porat et al. (1976), Williamson (1976), Stevenson (1976), Ofer (1976), and Hastings (1976). In Italy, the publisher Longanesi published such a book, but their staff went on strike in protest over that (their union, not unlike the Left in general, was unhappy about the rescue mission having taken place and succeeded).

² Which is ironic in English, given his unenlightened views, as well as in French, as they rather befit an *illuminé*: one not in his right mind.

especially in Bessarabia), “[t]he democratic public, particularly the left-wing forces and the left-wing press, had always vehemently condemned fascism. Among the standard-bearers of the anti-fascist camp were the Christian Orthodox priest, G. Pishculescu (Gala Galaction) who served for a while as dean of the Theology Faculty of Iași University located in Kishinev [...]” (Kopanskii 2005: 350–351).³

eee) Consider, from the ‘Acknowledgements’ section of a 2007 book in medical ethics from London: “We thank Mrs Golda Gold for her patience and dedication in retyping manuscripts in this volume” (Carrier et al. 2007: vii).

fff) Chris Christie is governor of New Jersey.

ggg) *Laura Lawrie* is the name of a woman based in Sedona, Arizona. She is managing editor of the journal *American Behavioral Scientist*, published by SAGE.

hhh) Michelle Mitchell is Charity Director of the organisation Age UK.

iii) Pasky Pascual is active in Web technology. Is the first name just a nickname formed out of the family name?

jjj) Sometimes, a prefix appears in the last name but not the last name: Prof. Stathis Efstathiadis is a linguist from Aristotle University in Thessaloniki (Salonika).

kkk) *Harry* is a form of *Henry*. Henry Harris, a boy aged ten at the time, appeared in a photograph with two girls (one of them, the daughter of a borough councillor who often gets this daughter’s photographs into local newspapers or council publications), along with three dental technicians. The photograph was on top of a short report announcing a promotional initiative on the part of the latter professional category, in a local newspaper from the Bexley borough of South East London (*News Shopper*, Bexley edition, 14 April 2010, p. 13).

lll) Still in relation to *Harry* being an informal form of *Henry*: Henry Harrison Lewis was a writer. Under the pseudonym “Lieut. Lionel Lounsberry”, in 1893 Henry Harrison Lewis published the short story ‘The Story of the Golden Crater’ in *Good News: Best Stories from Every Quarter*, 6 (pp. 144–155). It related about a fictional race of advanced apes which sacrifice humans to their deity.

mmm) Prof. Noah Aminoah (נח עמינה) is an Israeli historian, a specialist on medieval North Africa. His last name is formed as a compound which includes the first name.

nnn) In this other example, which is from from Arabic – Moustapha Safouan has published a book about fundamentalist terrorism (Safouan 2008) – the first name (*Muṣṭafa*, a widespread one) is a participle of the reflexive conjugation of the same lexical root from which the family name is formed.

³ Galaction’s attitude is all the more remarkable if one considers that Patriarch Miron Cristea (1868–1939) – who was Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church in 1925–1938, and became prime minister on 10 February 1938 (when King Carol II abolished the party system and instituted a monarchist dictatorship) – made and published anti-Jewish statements, and that as a prime minister he expressed to Germany’s ambassador his admiration for Hitler and support for his policies concerning the Jews (Armon 2005: 140). Writing about the riots in Bukovina at the time of its annexation to Romania following the First World War, Schaary (2005: 280) remarks: “The lower echelons of the Orthodox Church supported the riots and occasionally even led them”.

ooo) This other example is from the Hungarian onomasticon: Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi is a cognitive psychologist of international fame.

ppp) Also consider Prof. Janet Johnson, a classicist; her first and last names are etymologically related.

qqq) Jean Janecki is a linguist affiliated with the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse. There is an etymological correlation between her first and last names.

rrr) The first names *Jon* and *Johannes*, from Icelandic, are etymologically related. Bear in mind that both men and women bear patronymics, rather than family names, in Iceland to this very day. The businessmen Johannes Jónsson and his son, Jon Asgeir Johannesson, cofounded the Bonus supermarket chain. These are retail tycoons, and their Baugur group coowned important retail firms from British high streets. Baugur collapsed in 2009. On 1 September 2010, the business news in British newspapers, too, were that the father had just been ousted from the board of the parent company Hagar, which also manages other retail chains. The bank that gave the announcement claimed that this was in preparation for selling the chain. That way, father and sons found themselves out of the sector in which they had been prominent on a multi-generational basis.

sss) Jeff Jaffe is CEO of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). *Jaffe* is from the Hebrew adjective *yafe*, i.e., ‘beautiful’, and is etymologically unrelated to the first name *Jeff*.

ttt) Also consider the name *Nicolaus Olahus*. In an essay about Transylvania, Ladislau Gyémánt writes: “Interest in Hebrew began mainly in Germany and the Netherlands with the birth of the humanist movement. The Nordic version of this movement laid the foundations for the study of Hebrew in the modern Christian world. As far back as 1506, Johann Reuchlin published a Hebrew dictionary and grammar to facilitate the study of the Bible in the original. The Romanian-born humanist Nicolaus Olahus, who served as the Queen of Hungary’s secretary in the first quarter of the sixteenth century and accompanied her into exile in the Netherlands after the Battle of Mohács in 1526, established ties with Dutch Hebraists and Jewish scholars who were contemplating translating some of the books of the Bible from Hebrew to Latin. The dawn of the Reformation in the late sixteenth century, with its emphasis on a reliance on the original Hebrew version of the Holy Scriptures rather than the official Latin Vulgate, gave further momentum to this movement. Indeed, by the nineteenth century, there were over 1,500 Christian Hebraists in Europe, and 100 in Transylvania alone” (Gyémánt 2005a: 160–161).

uuu) Feish Fishman was the (chief) rabbi of the town of Cluj-Napoca, in Transylvania, in 1861–1863. He succeeded in that post Hillel Lichtenstein, and was in turn succeeded by Abraham Glasner (Gyémánt 2005b: 298).

vvv) Haim Mikhal Mikhlin was born in 1867 in the Governorate of Mogilev, in the Russian empire, and moved to Jerusalem in childhood, where he completed his rabbinical studies. He was the personal assistant to various rabbis, and an administrator in communal organisations. In 1893–1933 he was secretary and director of a hospital in Jerusalem. The onomastic situation in this case is that the middle name, Mikhal, happens to be the same personal name from which the family name, Mikhlin, appears to be derived. Actually, by coincidence, the father in law of Haim Mikhal Mikhlin – who was also a contributor to, and a correspondent for newspapers – was Rabbi Mikhal HaKohen, himself a newspaper editor (Kalai 1936, cols. 328–329).

www) Boris Brutzkus, born in Lithuania, was an agronomist (and a brother of historian Julius Brutzkus). He became professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1935 (Kalai 1936, cols. 108–109). The first name, *Boris*, and family name, *Brutzkus*, display alliteration, not so if his alternative first names are considered: Hebrew *Dov* and Yiddish *Ber*. In contrast, Minsk-born writer Yitzchak Dov Berkovitz was known by those first names in Palestine, where he moved in 1928 and was member of the Committee for the Hebrew Language from 1929 (Kalai 1936, cols. 117–118), yet in Yiddish his first names certainly were *Yitzchok Ber*, and the latter happens to be coincident with the initial substring of the family name, *Berkovitz*.

There is a French “animated book” (*livre animé*) for toddlers, by Marie-France Floury and Thierry Dedieu, published by Nathan in 1995 and 1999, and titled *Mino mini clown fait son numéro*. Note however that whereas there is assonance indeed between *Mino* and *mini*, the latter is part of the compound *mini-clown*.

11. Rhyme and quasi-rhyme in personal names

Sometimes one comes across rhyming personal names:

xxx) Yotam Hotam (יֹתָם הוֹתָם, pronounced *Yotám Khotám*) is a scholar in Jewish studies, born in Tel-Aviv in 1968. He earned his Ph.D. at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 2004. He was Exchange Mosse Professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison (2005–2006), then Visiting Lecturer at the Hebrew University, and Fellow of its Franz Rosenzweig Center for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History.

Sometimes the reason there is no rhyme is because of the presence of a suffix:

yyy) Ralph A. Alpher was awarded the U.S. National medal of Science in 2005, in the Physical sciences.

zzz) Jorge Luís Borges (pronounce: *khórkhe luís bórkhes*) was a famous Argentinian writer.

aaaa) Merkurios of Makuria reigned from 697 to c. 722 in the Nubian kingdom of Makuria. Apparently during his reign Makuria absorbed the Nubian kingdom of Nobatia.⁴

bbbb) *Némésius d'Émèse* – rather than a rhyming **Némèse d'Émèse* (pronounced [ne'mez de'mez]) – is the French form of the name of one of the Fathers of the Church. In English his name is *Nemesius of Emesa*, or *Nemesius, Bishop of Emesa* (Emesa is the Syrian town of Ḥoms).⁵

⁴ Shinnie (1996: 124f.); http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merkurios_of_Makuria

⁵ In German, his name is *Nemesios von Emesa* or *Nemesius von Emesa* (the former contains the Greek form of the name; Nemesius wrote in Greek). In Italian, his name is *Nemesio di Emesa*, or *Nemesio d'Emesa*. In Modern Latin, his name is *Nemesius Emesenus*. Incidentally, the name of the editor of the Teubner edition of Nemesius' treatise *De natura hominis* is *Moreno Morani* (Morani 1987).

And finally, consider the following examples of rhyming personal names:⁶

- Elin Pelin (Елин Пелин) was a Bulgarian writer, a narrator of country life. He was born Dimitar Ivanov Stoyanov (Димитър Иванов Стоянов) in 1877, in the village of Baylovo near Sofia. He died in 1949. He was first published in 1901, and early on, he took his pen-name, *Elin Pelin*. The word *pelin* means ‘wormwood’ in Bulgarian. Two of Elin Pelin’s novels, *Earth* and *The Gerak Family*, were filmed several times. In 1950, a village (that was proclaimed a town in 1960) was named in his honour: the town of Elin Pelin, in Sofia Province, was previously known as Novoseltsi; Baylovo is nearby. Of Elin Pelin’s writings, some are for children, and *Yan Bibiyani* (also a rhyming name) is the name of the eponymous character of a collection of tales; he travels to the moon.

- Paul Pagnol [pol pa'ɲɔl], who was the brother of Marcel Pagnol (1895–1974), a French writer, playwright, and scriptwriter who was member of the Académie française.

- Danielle Hunebelle is a French reporter. A report of hers about Henry Kissinger appeared in *Lectures pour tous*, no. 227 (December 1972), and on p. 35 a photograph showed her side by side with President Nixon, with Kissinger on the left in the picture, on Nixon’s other side.

- Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, who was vice-president of Kenya, being a member of the Luo (the country’s second largest group: the first is the Kikuyu), and his homeland being Nyanza province.

- Stan Golestan (1875–1956) was a “Jewish composer and conductor who emigrated to France. Awarded the prestigious G. Enescu prize in Romania. Music critic of *Le Figaro* and secretary-general of the Confederation of Music Critics. Promoted Romanian compositions on the international musical scene” (Ance 2004: 535).

- Marie Julie Julistanne was a Frenchwoman who was born a Muslim in Hungary. Sahlins (1994: 91 and in an endnote, n. 29 on p. 106) enumerates various subjects of the Ottoman Empire who were brought to France in involuntary circumstances and converted to Catholicism, during the 17th and early 18th centuries. “Others brought involuntarily include Marie Julie Julistanne, a Moslem from Hungary, a daughter of a Turkish officer who was taken at the age of two by the Imperial Army, then put under the protection of a French gentleman who brought her to France and had her baptized, and now at the age of 29 sought to ‘end her days as our true subject and *regnicole*” (Sahlins 1994: 106, n. 29). Apparently her capture in Hungary was in the late 1680s.

- *Ronald McDonald* is the name of the mascot of the McDonalds fast food chain.

⁶ We ignore in this article such personal names whose components simply sound similar, e.g., *Pierre Poirier* being a scholar active in cognitive science, which he especially approaches from a philosophical viewpoint. Both his first and last names contain a stressed [yer] segment, and the consonant sequence is respectively [py...r] and [pw...ry...r]. Or then: *Pete Pattison* is a Liberal Democrat councillor at the London borough of Lewisham. At the general elections of June 2010, he was his party’s candidate Member of Parliament for the constituency of Lewisham East. *Dick Van Dyke*, an actor, was popular in the 1960s. *Dora Dury* (in the second half of the 17th century) – the daughter of an Anglican clergyman who tried to get Queen Christina of Sweden to fund Protestant unity – was the ward, and then the second wife, of Henry Oldenburg, the German-born secretary to London’s Royal Society.

Distinguish such sound-alike situations that are embedded in the full personal name because of its own components, from such sound-alike situations which only depend upon the context and therefore are transient. At a conference held in Trier, Germany, in 1987, the Italian, Frosinone-born, Paris-based scholar Gian Piero Zarri [ˈdʒarri:] arrived, suitcase in hand, into the room where his session was being held, just in time to deliver his talk. The old lady, a scholar and publisher, who was chairing both the conference and that session kept calling out his name and looking at the audience, and when he tried again and again to come to the desk (he was still standing, having entered the room), the chair scolded him, turned her stare at the audience, and called his name again. Many in the audience were laughing. She eventually understood her error, and told him: “You are Sarri? I am sorry! You are Sarri? I am *sarry*” (where *sarry* was her pronunciation for *sorry*. It had an initial [s], which she did not Germanise into an initial [z]). During the same conference, I pointed out to her secretary that there was a missing figure in how my paper had been printed. The secretary replied: “I don’t believe Dr. [So-and-So] can make an error!” This in turn leads us to the subject of another paper of mine, about *apt names* (Nissan 2013). For example, Prof. Mauro Perani of the Ravenna branch of the University of Bologna is fond of puns, including on his own name. He is especially well known for his recovery of Hebrew or Aramaic Jewish manuscripts (dating from the Middle Ages or the Renaissance) from the binding of books, into which they were recycled after massive confiscations intended to suppress Jewish culture. Concerning that subject, Prof. Perani published the volume:

Perani, M., and C. Ruini (eds.). 2002. *Fragmenta ne pereant. Recupero e studio dei frammenti di manoscritti medievali e rinascimentali riutilizzati in legature*. Ravenna: Longo editore.

The main title of the book is in Latin: *Fragmenta ne pereant*. In such a context, one may become playfully aware that *Perani* is evocative in Italian of *perire* ‘to perish’, and *Ruini* is evocative of *ruina* = *rovina* ‘ruin’, whereas but the main title of the volume states in Latin *ne pereant*, i.e., “lest they perish”, about the fragments of manuscripts recycled in book binding, e.g., as shown in Perani’s own article in that volume, Hebrew manuscripts found in the binding of books, the manuscripts having been recycled after their confiscation (the discovery of such Hebrew manuscripts is now known by the name *Italian Genizah*, or, with reference to discoveries also in Girona, *European Genizah*).

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