



THE REVIEW OF A TOPONYMICAL DICTIONARY

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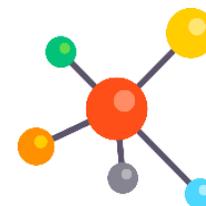
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ABSTRACT

It is known that toponymic dictionaries are fundamentally different from other types of dictionaries. Some toponymical dictionaries include the meanings of each toponymic unit. In some dictionaries, we can see toponyms and their origin only. Not all toponymical dictionaries include the meanings of toponyms. When we look at English toponymic dictionaries, we can see in them the features listed above. Toponymic dictionaries can serve not only as a dictionary but also as a guide. As for toponyms, they can represent one or more toponymical layers too. As a language unit, they are studied in Linguistics, as well as in Lexicology and Lexicography. In this article, analyses of some toponyms and their importance in Lexicography can be faced. Furthermore, the importance of Lexicography is mentioned. Toponyms mainly describe place names, and their origin, that is ethnography. This article reviews the Dictionary of London Place Names by the famous English toponymist David Mills. It is mentioned the structure of the dictionary, and the use of vocabulary units in it in terms of quantity and quality. Some toponyms used in the past as well as those that still exist today are also considered in the article. Their current existence and reflection in a dictionary of place names were reviewed and compared with the place names given in an online dictionary. Furthermore, there are given some examples and clarifications of some toponyms are taken from the dictionary. In a word, I can say that toponyms can be the bridge between history and the present.

KEYWORDS



Toponyms, toponymical dictionaries, place names, structure, toponymist, lexicography, toponymical layer, language unit, toponymic unit.

INTRODUCTION

Toponyms reflect the culture, past, and various political-social and ethnocultural processes of a certain nation, therefore toponyms are an important component of the vocabulary of a particular language. They remind us of the past. They can be a bridge for the past, present, and future. Toponyms as a linguistic unit are considered as one of the objects of study not only of linguistics but also of lexicography.

Toponymical dictionaries are important in the study of toponyms because through toponymical dictionaries we can get more complete information about place names. They are significant in lexicography too. Collection of toponyms, explanation of them, and classification of place names into groups based on aspects of etymological, ethnolinguistic, and structural-semantic formation are reflected in toponymical dictionaries.

The creation of toponymic dictionaries means special interest and attention to toponyms. Here are some examples of toponymic dictionaries published for English toponyms:

Mills A.D. A Dictionary of British Place Names, Mills.
A.D. A Dictionary of London Place-Names, George R. Stewart.
American Place-Names: A Concise and

Selective Dictionary for the Continental United States of America, Eilert Ekwall. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names, David Ross. Scottish Place-Names, Alexander Falileyev. Dictionary of Continental Celtic Place-Names, Adrian Room. Alternate names of Places: a Worldwide dictionary, Dray A. Rhyming. Dictionary of USA: Place Names,

Now we are going to speak about “A Dictionary of London Place-Names”. The main purpose and object of the Dictionary of London Place-Names by David A Mills are English toponyms and it includes place names belonging to the territories of London. What period they belong to, how they were made, and even the meaning of each toponym is given.

This dictionary contains over 1,700 place names related to London place names, streets, stations, and areas. The book contains two main parts:

- a) introductory part (discussion of the chronological and structure of place names representing the period of development of the city from the period of the Celtic tribes to the present day);
- b) about the alphabetical presentation of place names, their first written date, origin, and associations (combinations);



According to the structural analysis of the dictionary, the megastructure includes the following parts:

1. London Place-Names and their Meanings.

In this part, there are given some examples of Place-Names like Cockfosters, Shepherd's Bush, and Chipping Barnet that make any person be wondered.

2. Scope and Arrangement of the dictionary.

In this part of the introduction, it is mentioned that this dictionary sets out to provide the most likely etymology and original meaning for the place names of the area of Greater London¹.

3. The Chronology and Languages of London Place-Names.

This part deals with some chronology that is related to the regions of the toponymic units²:

- a) Pre-Celtic Names
- b) Celtic Names
- c) Roman Londinium
- d) The Anglo-Saxon Period
- e) The Scandinavian Influence
- f) The Middle English Period
- g) The Early Modern Period
- h) Modern and Recent Names

4. Some Different Place-Name Types and Structures³.

It can be seen different structures and formations found in London place names:

- Compound and Simplex Names.
- Names with Affixes
- Reduction and other Sound Changes

- Some Archaic Grammatical Features
- Old English Personal Names: 'a man called Hilda'
- Folk Etymology
- Back Formation
- Names Transferred from Foreign Places
- Irony, Whimsy, and Some Unusual Formations

5. The Wider Significance of London Place-Names.

This part describes the importance of London Place-Names and its surrounding towns and villages reflect many aspects of life in the capital. Linguistic aspects of London Place-Names are also mentioned in this part.

6. Postscript: Some Associations, Uses, and Applications of London Place-Names.

7. The Greater London Boroughs. There is given a list of twenty-eight boroughs. For instance:

- Barking&Dagenham
- Barnet
- Bexley
- Croydon
- Ealing
- Greenwich
- Lambeth
- Redbridge
- Southwark
- Wandsworth

8. Glossary of the Elements Found in London Place-Names.

In this part, it is mentioned the list of

¹ Mills A.D. A Dictionary of London Place-Names. – [New York: Oxford University Press](#), 2010. - p. ix

² The same book, - p. xi

³ The same book, - p. xix



elements with their meanings according to the English Alphabet.

9. **Select Bibliography.** This part gives information about the literature that is relevant to Place-Names.

10. **Recommended We Links.** In this part of the megastructure, it can be found useful internet resources for further usage.

The dictionary also provides 1) 9 maps of London, some of which are given as an example (See Figure #1), 2) a useful glossary of elements of London place names (See Figure #2), 3) a list of selected readings (See Figure #3), and 4) recommended websites (See Figure #4) in its megastructure.

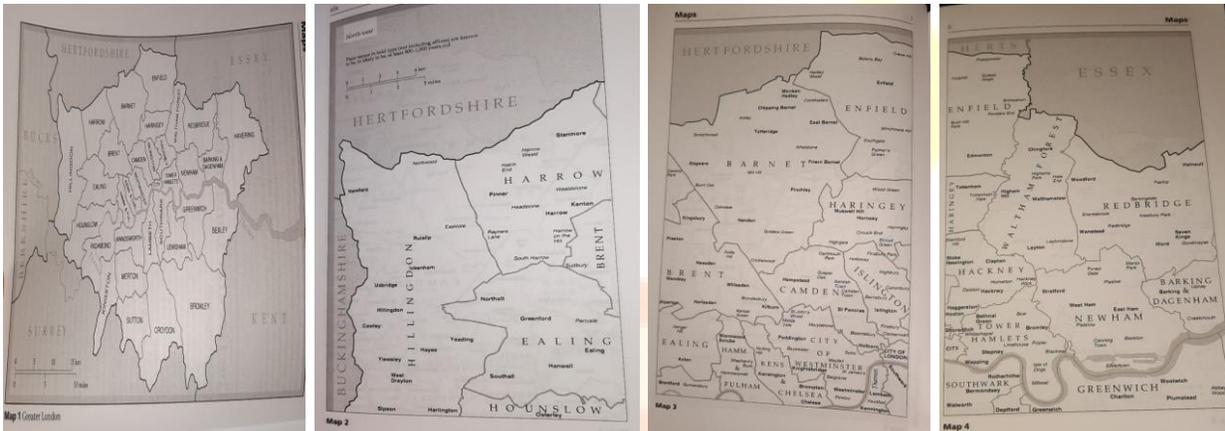


Figure #1

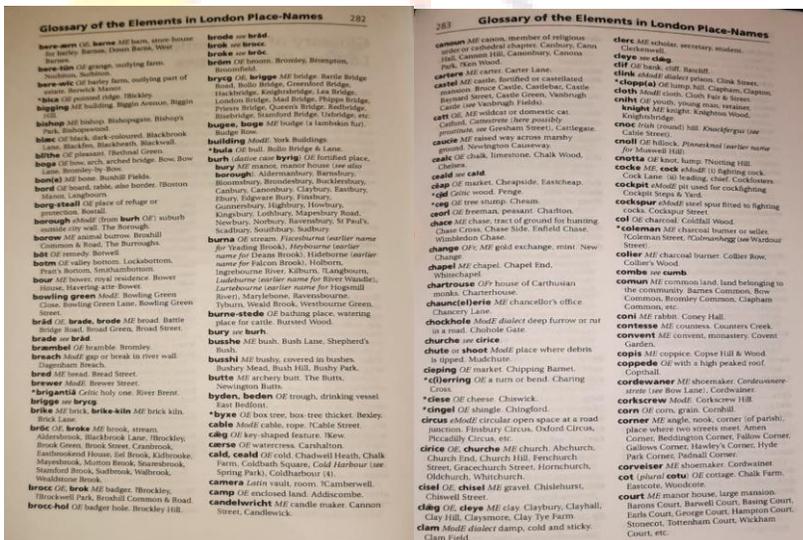


Figure #2

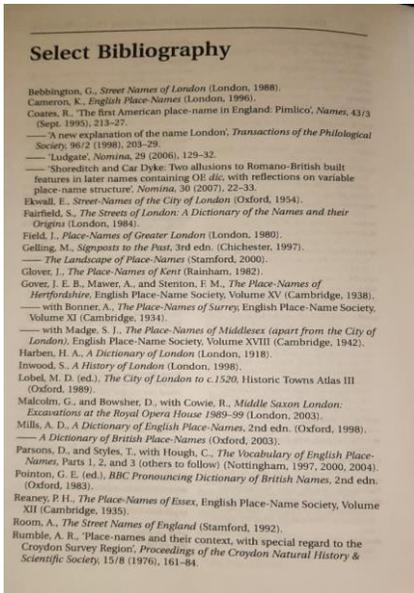


Figure #3

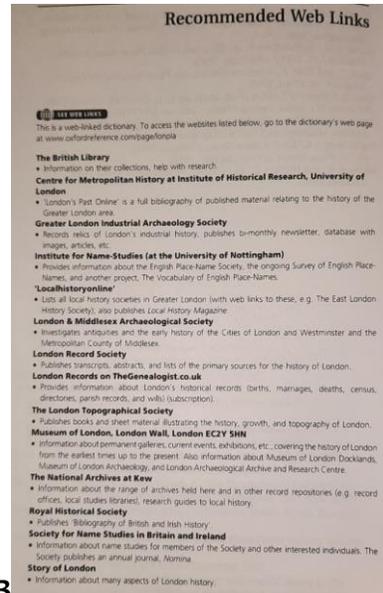


Figure #4

Below are some toponyms taken from this dictionary with their meanings, grammar structures, and etymology:

Derry Downs⁴ (near St Mary Cray) Bromley. So, named in 1985 and marked thus on the Ordnance Survey map of 1904, perhaps so-called from the surname Derry of some local family.

Victoria⁵ Westminster District centered on Victoria Station opened in 1986 and like nearby Victoria Street (constructed c.1850) named after Queen Victoria. Before Victoria Street was built, a large area of slum was demolished which included The Ambry (the Aumorie 1494, from Middle English almerie ‘storehouse’ also ‘place where

alms were distributed), Duck Lane (so named in 1682, a muddy track), and Thieving Lane (Thevynlane 1424, ‘thieves’ lane’, from Middle English theef, plural theven; see GLOBE TOWN for another early example of this name in Bethnal Green).

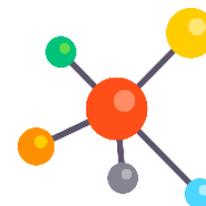
This dictionary is currently being further updated and redeveloped. The great thing about the dictionary is that it can be used as a guide not only by Londoners but by anyone visiting the city.

REFERENCES

1. Mills A.D. A Dictionary of English Place-Names. – New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.– 421p.

⁴ Mills A.D. A Dictionary of London Place-Names. – [New York: Oxford University Press](#), 2010. - p. 73

⁵ The same book, - p. 256



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6. Adrian Room. Alternate names of Places: a Worldwide dictionary. – Jefferson, North Carolina, and London, 2009. – 257 p.

