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What follows is an abbreviated preview of the various elements of this book.

## Introduction

In case you are one of those people who never bothers to read introductions because they are usually too long and often not very interesting, I've split this up into smaller sections from which you may pick and choose as you wish.

This book is...

A book of personal names from all over the world, both surnames (family names), and given names.

## It is not...

A baby name book and does not give the meanings of names.

## Who is it for?

It is a handy reference for writers and

creators of role-playing games; it can be used by genealogists and people tracing their ancestry; it could be a good source of interesting and original names for a new baby; and it is for anyone who is fascinated by the incredible variety of names and naming traditions throughout the world.

My original purpose when I started to compile this collection of names was to provide a reference for fiction writers who wanted to use international characters in their stories. I sent a proposal to a publisher of books for writers and was told it was such a good idea they had decided to have another author update a similar book they'd published several years earlier.

By this time I was hooked, so I spent the next three years collecting names and doing my best to authenticate them. I wanted to fill a gap that was glaringly obvious in the other name books with which I became acquainted—that is they were limited in scope to only a few areas of the world, chiefly Europe. I wanted to make it a comprehensive reference of names from every country in the world and also include many ethnic sub-groups.

## Spelling

Some names are spelled many different ways so, rather clutter the lists with all the variations, I've settled on using the most common spellings. For example, my own name, Wootton, is spelled, legitimately, at least four different ways, much to my chagrin whenever someone else writes it—there's Wooton, Wootten, Wooten, and even on occasion, Woolton—so I settled on my own spelling, the one with which I'm most familiar. Another name that has numerous spellings, and is much more renowned, is Mohammed. The differences are probably due to its being an Arab name that is reproduced phonetically when transliterated from the Arabic to the Roman alphabet. I have therefore chosen to use the spelling “Mohammed”, which seems to be the most common.

Where there is a minor difference, such as Richard and Richards, I put the optional letter(s) in brackets like this: Richard(s). The same goes for names like Gogh and Van Gogh, which I list as Gogh (Van). It can either be just plain Gogh, or Van Gogh.

## Pronunciation

I have added a brief section on pronunciation for some languages; however, it is beyond the scope of this publication to delve too deeply into this topic. There are, however, a few hints for Anglophones who have problems with foreign words.

The letter “i” is hardly ever pronounced “eye” in other languages. It is usually “i” as in bit, or “ee” as in feet. For example, “Ibarra” is pronounced “Eebarra”; “Iran”, Eeran (not eye-ran).

“Th” is usually pronounced “T” in non-English languages. For example, “Thiessen” is pronounced “Teesen”.

In many Slavic languages, the letter “c” sounds like “ts”, and “j” sounds like “y”.

As readers know, English is one of the most idiosyncratic and eccentric languages in the world. There are rules for dealing with pronunciation, but each rule has exceptions, and some are ignored altogether at times. Here are some examples of the eccentricity of English (and Scottish) name pronunciation: Cholmondeley is pronounced “Chumley”, Featherstonehough is “Fanshaw”, St. John is “Sinjin”, Beauchamp is “Beecham”, and the Scottish name Dalziel is “De’el”.

## Sources

Wherever possible, I have consulted scholarly reference books, in particular *The Oxford Book of Surnames* and *The Oxford Book of First Names*. In addition, I have done a great deal of research on the internet, consulting Name sites, and the government sites of many nations, in addition to Embassies from all over the world. I was also fortunate to be able to receive direct help from a number of people, most notably, a student in Kazakhstan and a young man from Finland, who both sent me lists of names. There are some web sites devoted to preserving the names of particular cultures, two of which provided me with a rich trove of Greek and Armenian names. The Government of Indonesia had a website that listed the names of everyone who had been active in government since 1946. This yielded a bonanza. There’s a fascinating website dedicated to famous Africans which was another great source. Many of the names listed in this book are the names of real people who rose to prominence (and in some cases, infamy) in their own countries as politicians, athletes, artists, scientists, and so on. Many Native American names were derived from Native American and Aboriginal websites. Another source of useful information was the CIA World Fact Book, although I must emphasize that I in no way approve of the activities of that organization. Check the bibliography for a complete listing of source material.

## Naming Traditions

Naming traditions vary throughout the world, therefore one cannot take for granted either name order or the passing of names with marriage. Countries such as Russia use a patronymic after the given name; many societies use patronyms as surnames. In some places, women adopt their spouse’s names when they marry, others don’t. In many Asian countries, the family name comes first before the given name, and the Chinese traditionally use a generation name between the family name and the given name. The Spanish combine the surnames of the two spouses to form a family name, and some Slavic nations use a different ending for female surnames. More details of unique or different naming traditions are given with the country listings.

There appear to be three major sources from which family names are derived:

- Geographical and topographic names, place of origin, or words descriptive of local landmarks, e.g., Van Amsterdam, Montefiore.

- Patronymics, father’s or forefather’s name, e.g. Mendelssohn, McKay.

Occupational names, e.g., Cooper, Charpentier.

Many given names are derived from vocabulary words, especially in Asia. These names often describe attributes the parents desire in their children. The names of flowers and precious gems are popular for girls in many European countries and in Iran. In Islamic and Christian cultures, parents often name their children after scriptural figures and saints. European boys are frequently named after historical and cultural heroes.

## The new world

You will find there are no country listings for the Americas or Australasia (with the exception of Papua-New Guinea) as most of the names used there are European. [see Appendix I for details.] There are, however, some Native American and Australian Aboriginal names. There is also a section devoted to African American names, which are both unique and culturally interesting. Also included are some given names that are more commonly used in the United States than in England and other European countries, and which may have originated in America. The use of surnames (family names) as given names is more prevalent in the United States than in most countries.

## Terminology

The label “surname”, used throughout this book means family name, the name that is used by every member of a family unit—parents and children. It is often the ancestral name. A “given name” is the individual name given to a person, usually at birth, and usually by its parents. It is sometimes (in Europe) called the Christian name, or the first name. A patronymic is derived from the father’s name, often by adding ‘s’ or a word meaning ‘son’ or ‘of’. For example, Neilsen, Richards, *Ivanovich*.

## The changing face of the world and how it affects names

During the past century, the world has changed almost beyond the recognition of anyone from the nineteenth century. New unions were formed and discarded; dozens of nations were born with the end of European colonialism, the break-up of the Soviet Union, and the fall of the “Iron Curtain”.

A deep interest in ethnic and cultural roots flourishes all over the world and many people are renewing the names and naming traditions of their ancestors, be they the Celts of Scotland and Ireland, the Native peoples of the Americas, or the liberated inhabitants of former Soviet republics. Another source of change is the spread of religion, especially in Africa where Islam is the fastest growing religion on the continent, reflected in the increasing use of Islamic names. Islamic names are also replacing many of the Russianized names of the Soviet-era in Central Asia.

## Apologies

There are upward of 90,000 names in this collection. It would be impossible to find, let alone authenticate, every name in the world, therefore there will be

omissions and—dare I say? —errors. I apologize for these imperfections and welcome additions and corrections. I look upon this as an ongoing project which will be updated as new information arrives. Please feel free to send me an email if you want to add a name or many names, or would like me to correct something. My email address is *vickiwriteson@gmail.com*. Please, if you send a correction, give me some back-up to verify your information is correct and use “Names” as the subject.

Apologies to the following European countries for which no unique traditional names have been discovered. The official languages are given for each country and may provide clues to name sources.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Languages</b>	<b>Location</b>
Andorra	Catalan, French, Spanish	Northern Spain
Liechtenstein	German, Alemannic dialect	Between Switzerland and Austria
Moldova	Moldovian, Russian	Between Ukraine and Romania
San Marino	Italian	East central Italy
Faeroe Islands	Faeroese (from old Norse), Danish	Northern Atlantic, between Scotland and Iceland
Malta	Maltese, English	Mediterranean south of Sicily
Monaco	French, English, Italian, Monegasque	Southern France
Vatican City	Italian, Latin, French	Rome
Gibraltar	English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese	Southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula

## Part I – Europe

### Albanian

#### Albania (Shqipëri)

Capital: Tiranë

Languages: Albanian, Greek

Major Religion: Muslim

Currency: Lek, Qintar

#### Surnames

Agaraj	Agani	Ahmetaj	Ahmeti
Ajeti	Alia	Alibali	Alii
Alikaj	Aliti	Aliu	Amiti
Arbnori	Astafa	Bajraktari	Bajrami
Bajramovic	Balla	Bardha	Bardhi
Bardici	Bardulla	Bejko	Bejta
Belushi	Berisha	Berishaj	Besimi
Bislimi	Bizi	Blaku	Boja
Boshnjaku	Broci	Brozi	Budo
Bufi	Bunjaku	Bushaj	Bushati
Buzoku	Bytygi	Cacaj	Can

Cano	Carcani	Ceka	Cela
Celaj	Cerga	Chani	Chocholi
Congoli	Ciftja	Culaj	Cumani
Daci	Dedej	Dejti	Demachi
Demaci	Demai	Demisovski	Dhamo
Dibra	Dosti	Dreshaj	Duka
Dukagjini	Dzaferi	Elezi	Emini
Fakaj	Fazliu	Frasheri	Gacaferi
Galica	Galimuna	Gashi	Gecaj
Gjika	Gjikokaj	Gjinali	Gjokaj
Gozhita	Grazdani	Hajdaraga	Hajdari
Hajdini	Halii	Halil	Halili
Haliti	Hamiti	Hamza	Harxhi
Hasangjekaj	Hasani	Hassan	Haxhi
Haxhiu	Hisari	Hoxha	Hyseni
Hysi	Idrizi	Isai	Ismaili
Istogu	Isufaj	Januzaj	Jasari
Julia	Kadare	Kalaj	Kaleci
Kapllani	Kartallozi	Kastrioti	Kiuprili
Kochiu	Koëi	Kola	Kolcei
Kolonja	Kona	Kongoli	Korkizoglou
Kotta	Kraja	Krasnicki	Krasniki
Krasniqi	Krizi	Kula	Kupi
Kursumulu	Kutishi	Lamaj	Latifi
Lazami	Logoreci	Lokaj	Lucca
Luga	Lumaj	Lumani	Lushi
Luzaj	Mala	Mali	Maniani
Manjani	Marishta	Marku	Maxharraj
Maxhuni	Meco	Meidani	Meksi
Meshkalla	Metarapi	Mishaxhi	Morina
Mripa	Mujushi	Murati	Murzaku
Muslimi	Naëi	Nallbani	Nano
Nesimi	Nexhipi	Nnano	Noli
Nooja	Nuhiji	Oseku	Paloka
Peco	Moisiu	Noli	Pasha
Rugova	Skenderbeg	Spahiu	Pernaska
Petrela	Pipa	Pllana	Pllumi
Pocoli	Poda	Pojani	Prela
Prekpalaj	Prifti	Prishtina	Pula
Qosja	Raco	Rama	Ramadani
Reufi	Rexhepi	Ristani	Rrustemi
Rugova	Sadiku	Sadiraj	Salihu
Saliu	Sapunxiu	Sava	Sejko
Selimi	Selmani	Seseri	Shala
Shehu	Shima	Shkelyim	Shulku
Shundi	Siliqi	Simaku	Smajlaj
Sopa	Strakosha	Sulejmani	Surroi
Syla	Sylaj	Tafaj	Tahiri
Tare	Tatari	Thaci	Thaqi
Thika	Tolaj	Tolka	Tolr
Topalli	Toptani	Troshani	Tzeka
Tzelili	Useni	Varoshi	Vata
Velo	Vercuni	Veseli	Vllasi
Vulaj	Xhaferi	Xhanari	Xhaxhka

Xhumba  
Zhulati  
Zogu

Ymeri  
Zhuzhumi

Zagreda  
Ziberi

Zhugli  
Zogjani

## Given Names

### *Female*

Aferdita	Agnes	Alba	Albina
Albiona	Alda	Aleksandra	Alma
Amarda	Anduela	Anges	Anisa
Anjeza	Antigona	Ardiana	Arlinda
Arta	Bardha	Bardhla	Besa
Besiana	Betime	Blendi	Blerta
Bora	Brikena	Bukurije	Delina
Denada	Denisa	Dhurata	Dzevahire
Delira	Elgida	Elida	Eni
Enkela	Era	Eralda	Erinda
Erkinda	Ermela	Ermira	Ervina
Evis	Ferlije	Fitime	Floresha
Floriana	Floriye	Gjorgjina	Haxhire
Hydi	Iliriana	Irina	Irma
Ivona	Jorgji	Juljana	Katina
Klodiana	Krista	Kristala	Kujtesa
Ledia	Lenusya	Leona	Liliana
Limoza	Lindit	Lindita	Livrona
Lizabeta	Lugunjia	Luljeta	Lutfie
Majlinda	Mariana	Marie	Marika
Marjana	Merita	Milena	Mirela
Mirjam	Mirsada	Mirvjena	Monika
Naime	Naxhie	Nazibe	Nertila
Nevila	Nora	Pranvera	Rajmonda
Ravesa	Rita	Rosalia	Rudina
Saime	Sanie	Sanije	Shota
Shpresa	Shqiponja	Shukurije	Sonila
Surafina	Teuta	Valbona	Vesa
Violeta	Vona	Yllka	Zhaklina

### *Male*

Adem	Agim	Agron	Alban
Aleksander	Alfred	Arben	Ardian
Arjan	Arlind	Artim	Astrit
Bafti	Bajram	Bardhyl	Bashkim
Bekim	Besart	Besnik	Betim
Bledi	Blerim	Dalip	Dana
Danjela	Dashmir	Dorin	Dren
Ealem	Elton	Eni	Erald
Eri	Ermal	Ervin	Fadil
Fatos	Feti	Fisnik	Florian
Gazjon	Gent	Gezim	Gjergj
Gjoka	Gjynejt	Haxhi	Hervis
Hilmi	Hysni	Idlir	Ilir
Ilirian	Jetmir	Jetnor	Juljan
Justini	Kadri	Kastriot	Klodi
Kostandin	Kristaq	Kristo	Kurac

Laert	Leka	Liridon	Luan
Lulzim	Maklen	Mark	Meely
Mentor	Milie	Mirand	Mirjan
Misin	Muhamet	Muharrem	Nasi
Nikolle	Nuhi	Oni	Pajtim
Pandeli	Pandi	Pellumb	Petrit
Qamil	Qemajl	Sabit	Saimir
Sefedin	Shaban	Shpetim	Skender
Sokol	Tie	Uran	Valon
Veton	Vilma	Yahir	Yll
Ysni	Zani		

## Albanian Pronunciation

a	ah
c	ts
ç	ch
dh	th (as in there)
e	e (as in red)
ë	ur
g	hard
gj	gi (as in give)
i	i (as in fit)
j	y
nj	ni (as in onion)
o	o (as in hot)
q	kyuh
u	oo (as in food)
x	z
xh	j
y	u (as in use)
zh	zh

## Appendix IV Newly Independent States (Since 1990)

### Former Members of the Soviet Union

<b>Asia</b>	<b>Independence</b>
Armenia	September 21, 1991
Azerbaijan	August 30, 1991
Georgia	April 9, 1991
Kazakhstan	December 16, 1991
Kyrgyzstan	August 31, 1991
Tajikistan	September 9, 1991
Turkmenistan	October 27, 1991
Uzbekistan	September 1, 1991
<b>Europe</b>	
Belarus	August 25, 1991
Estonia	August 20, 1991



Latvia	August 21, 1991
Lithuania	March 11, 1990 (declared)
Moldova	August 27, 1991
Ukraine	August 24, 1991

## Former Yugoslavia

Bosnia and Herzegovina	March 1, 1992
Croatia	June 25, 1991
Macedonia	September 8, 1991
Montenegro	June 3, 2006 (from Serbia & Montenegro)
Serbia	June 5, 2006 (from Serbia & Montenegro)
Slovenia	June 25, 1991

## Former Czechoslovakia

The Czech Republic	1 January 1993
Slovakia	1 January 1993

## Others

Timor-Leste (Independent of Indonesia) August 1999/May 20, 2002  
Republic of Palau (Independent of the United States) October 1994

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