

ONOMASTICON III

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In his November 1978 article, "Logopoeia," Philip M. Cohen defines his title word as "a coined word meaning 'word-coining.'" This definition does not do an established word justice. Logopoeia was defined by Ezra Pound -- who may have coined it -- in ABC of Reading (1934); and while "logopoeia" is literally "making of words," Pound gives the word a much richer definition. The accepted meaning of this and most (all?) other -poeia words (from the Greek poiein, to make) are in the following onomasticon. Perhaps this should have been subtitled Much Ado About 'Making'!

CHRYSOPOEIA gold-making; transmuting into gold

EPOPOEIA : epopee 1. epic poetry; the epic genre; also, an epic poem
2. a series of events, or narrative, of epic character

ETHOPOEIA delineation of character (Rhetoric)

LOGOPOEIA charging language with meaning by inducing the effects of both phanopoeia and melopoeia, thus stimulating the intellectual or emotional associations which have remained in the receiver's consciousness in relation to the actual words or groups of words employed (Ezra Pound, q.v.)

MELOPOEIA the art or theory of inventing melody (Music);
charging language with meaning by inducing emotional correlations by the sound and rhythm of speech (Ezra Pound, q.v.)

MYTHOPOEIA a creating of myth or giving rise to myths

ODYNOPOEIA the induction of labor pains

ONOMATOPOEIA 1. formation of words in imitation of natural sounds (Philology) 2. a word so formed (Philology) 3. the use of words whose sound suggest the sense (Rhetoric)

PATHOPOEIA rhetorical stirring of passion (Rhetoric)

PHANOPOEIA charging language with meaning by throwing the object, be it fixed or moving, on to the visual imagination; literally, making visible (Ezra Pound, q.v.)

PHARMACOPOEIA 1. a book containing a selected list of drugs, chemicals, and medical preparations, with descriptions of them, tests for their identity, purity, and strength, and formulas for making the preparations, especially one issued by official authority and recognized as a standard 2. a collection or stock of drugs

PROSOPOPOEIA originally, representation of an absent person as speaking, or of a dead person as alive and present; later, personification (Rhetoric)

RHYTHMOPOEIA rhythmic art or method

The word "poem" derives from the same Greek root; and I originally suspected "cornucopia" to be a close relative, but its derivation is from "copious." Odynopoeia is in Dorland's Medical Dictionary, and the others (except for logopoeia and phanopoeia) can be found in Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition.

-OLOGIES & -ISMS: A THEMATIC DICTIONARY

This is the title of a dictionary edited by Howard G. Zettler under the direction of Laurence Urdang (Verbatim editor), and published by Gale Research Company in 1978 for \$18. It is a collection of more than 3,000 defined words, the majority ending in -ism/-ist (1,261), -graphy/-metry/-philia/-mancy (1,168), and -ology (463); there are at least as many more undefined variant spellings or closely-related words given. The words appear in an alphabetical index, and are also arranged in more-or-less logical groupings, much in the style of the original Roget thesaurus.

This book is very similar to 'Isms: A Dictionary of Words Ending in -Ism, -Ology, and -Phobia, reviewed by Murray Pearce in the August 1972 Word Ways and reprinted the same year; it is currently available in England for 90 pence. However, 'Isms is only about half the size of the current work, with only 1,500 defined entries. The classification system used in -Ologies & -Isms is more general than that used in 'Isms; for example, 'Lice' in the latter is subsumed under 'Insects' in the former, 'Lamplight', under 'light', and 'Lung', under 'Body'. However, even when both books use the same classification, there is no guarantee that the same terms will appear. Of the four entries under 'Land' in 'Isms, three appear under 'Politics' in -Ologies & -Isms, and one is missing; conversely, the two items under 'Land' in -Ologies & -Isms are missing in 'Isms.

No sources are given for the words in the new book; on the other hand, 'Isms indicates the dictionary (or other printed source) it obtained a word from if it is a hapax legomenon (or cited in only one dictionary).