WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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A few years ago, when I was writing a regular column for Pageant magazine, I discovered that letters came in from many places (even far-off India and Australia) after I pointed out the obvious fact that Logan created the loganberry, Machiavelli was immortalized by the adjective machiavellian, Gage grew the greengage, and Sinclair Lewis's George Babbitt epitomized Babbittry. I then created a couple of short quizzes about word origins to test the knowledge of my readers on such words as cardigan, Plimsoll mark and galvanize. Readers of Word Ways may enjoy testing themselves on fifty "words from names" given below; some are easy while others are tantalizing (see Tantalus). Answers can be found in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. Ceres, the Roman goddess of grain and protectress of the harvest, gave her name to our breakfast ----.

2. This French beauty bore Louis XIV four illegitimate children before Madame de Montespan came along. She is remembered not so much for the play by Bulwer-Lytton about a designing duchess as for the name she gave to an elaborate necklace, the ----.

3. This Scottish chemist developed a waterproof fabric in 1823. He did not really invent the raincoat, but many Britons call their waterproof coats a ----.

4. In the 17th century this man operated a livery stable and, to save himself trouble, made it a rule that anyone wishing to hire a horse had to take the next one in line. When today we are presented with a choice that is not really a choice, and told to take it or leave it, we call that ---- choice.

5. This young lady, a crack shot who toured with Buffalo Bill Cody's famous wild west show in the last century, was the subject of the musical Annie Get Your Gun. One of her tricks was to shoot at a playing card thrown into the air. From this a complimentary ticket to the theater, punched in advance by the management (to pre-
vent application for a refund), was called an Annie ----.

6. The priestesses of Artemis at Caryae in ancient Laconia gave their names to those stalwart ladies you see supporting entablatures in fancy architecture. They are called ----.

7. An early plastic made of synthetic resins was invented by Leo H. Baekeland (1863 - 1944). Those over thirty years old may remember when many things were made of ----.

8. Many flowers have taken their names from botanists, even bougainvillea and zinnia, but this is a common one with a fairly easy name, which came to England late in the 18th century from Jamaica and was named for the French governor of Santo Domingo. It is ----.

9. In two 16th-century English novels, John Lyly created a character who taught the Elizabethan court a sort of British gongorism (though that excessively ornate style takes its name from a Spanish writer). After Lyly's delicate and highly rhetorical young man, fancy speech in our language is often called ----.

10. The highly impractical inhabitants of the flying island in Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels permit us to add to our useful word lilliputian an adjective to describe people who neglect the needful and practical for the useless and visionary. This word is ----.

11. This French count liked to call himself a marquis, but it was his philosophy of violence and his sexual perversions that caused him to spend much time in jail. There he had plenty of time to write about his doctrine of ----.

12. It took an architect to invent a "Patent Safety Cab" that put the passengers in a safer vehicle and the driver in a sort of rumble seat. Thereafter eminent Victorians rode in a ----.

13. The town of Gap in France hardly gives a clue to why it is connected with a dance, but if you will take Gapotte through the Italian you move gracefully to ----.

14. In 1814 Adelbert von Chamisso wrote a popular story about a man who sold his soul (and his shadow) to the devil for a never-empty purse, but of course he made a stupid bargain and ever since people who can be imposed on, or counted on to do something dumb, are called, after von Chamisso's hero, ----.

15. Thomas Massinger and Nathan Field created this dashing character in The Fatal Dowry, published in 1632, and poet-laureate...
Nicholas Rowe borrowed him for the lover in the tragedy of The Fair Penitent in 1703. Since then, writers like Richardson and Rousseau have copied the character and we still call a gay and gallant lover a ----.

16. An Austrian novelist of the 19th century who used both is father's and his mother's surnames gave the latter to a sexual abnormality depicted in such works as Venus in Furs. This is called ----.

17. They say that John Montague, a gambling earl of the 18th century, could not be prevailed upon to leave the card table even for food. At five o'clock in the morning on August 6, 1792, he solved his dining problems by inventing something which took its name from his title. It is the ----.

18. This English earl used to bet a thousand to one that you wouldn't be dealt a hand in bridge or whist with no card higher than a nine. Any bridge player knows that such a hand, which takes its name from this 19th-century nobleman's title, is called ----.

19. Actually Barbier invented the system that enabled the blind to read and write, but it takes its name from a 19th-century Frenchman, himself blind from the age of three, called ----.

20. This most ancient character supposedly had a bit of fruit stuck in his throat, so we call the projection in the front of the neck caused by the largest (thyroid) cartilage of the larynx the ----.

21. Griswold Lollillard was the first one to wear one of these common outfits for men, but the name came from a resort for the rich in New York state, and, originally, from the Algonquin name of des- rision (round-pawed) for the tribe of Delaware Indians who lived in Orange County, New York. The outfit is called a ----.

22. The old-fashioned carriage name is originally French, but the French named it after a foreign queen. The carriage is a ----.

23. There were eleven musical children in his family, but their surname is known around the world because one of them invented a group of brass instruments for band use which took his name far beyond his native Belgium. The best known of these instruments is the ----.

24. Parish priest in Metz, creator of the bold caricatures and stinging satire of Gargantua and Pantagruel, this French ecclesiastic gave his name to all robust and bawdy humor that is ----.
25. This Biblical sorcerer (Acts 8:18) wanted to purchase a blessing he did not deserve, and gave his name to the buying and selling not of blessings but of benefices in the medieval church. The practice was called ----.

26. This Union general of the Civil War is known not only to history buffs but to the general public, although his name has been reversed in the process of being immortalized. Today there is revived popularity for the facial adornments called ---- after General ----.

27. An island between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan has given its name to a lumberjack's jacket, called a ----.

28. History has not forgotten the costly victory over the Romans at Asculum that caused the King of Epirus to lament: "One more such victory and we are lost." Since then, the king's name has been preserved in the adjective ----.

29. The favorite saint of Venice gave his name to a silly dodderer of the commedia dell'arte and to the baggy pants the actors playing him used to wear. The pants are called ----.

30. This man, sentenced to death for rape, lived -- and became a hangman. His given name is long forgotten, but his surname survived in the designation of the crane he invented to hoist heavy objects (such as bodies). It is called a ----.

31. Diocletian martyred a Sicilian saint whose statue was thought, in the Middle Ages, to bring health to those who danced around it. Today the saint is known because the disease chorea is also called ----.

32. This Italian anatomist who died in 1574 gave his name to both a valve and an important tube in the human body. Both are called, in an adjective derived from his last name, ----.

33. This Irish rent-collector so annoyed his tenants that they decided simply to ignore him. Ever since, an organized avoidance of someone has been called a ----.

34. This French scene painter moved from creating theatrical backdrops to inventing a heliographic process that produced permanent photographs by the action of the sun on silver iodide. These early pictures were called ----.

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35. This son of Neptune was gifted with the ability to prophesy and then plagued by questions. To avoid difficulties, he simply kept changing his shape, whence the adjective.

36. The town near Prague, Czechoslovakia, has now changed its name to Sedlcany, but the world remembers it as the village in Bohemia where mildly cathartic, fizzing mineral springs produced a medicine similar to that which we get when we put the contents of one blue paper and one white paper in a glass of water. We call the contents of these two papers powders.

37. This 19th-century British prime minister had a lot of things named after him, from cheap French wine to pins. Americans are likely to remember him as the man who caused a light traveling bag to be called a.

38. This English auctioneer of racehorses gave his name to the sporty waistcoats of track touts (and others) that were decorated with patterns of colored lines crossing on a solid background. The vest is called a.

39. A French physician actually invented this as a humanitarian gesture, but few people see much humanity in the decision of the Constituent Assembly of 1792 to execute people on the.

40. This Frenchman was a colonel who was embarrassingly killed by his own misdirected artillery fire at the Battle of Duisberg which probably pleased many who had served under his strict discipline, for he was a.

41. Australia’s first capital suggested a name to this opera diva, and she in turn gave it to a peach dessert. She was Nellie.

42. This Irish lawyer loved to systematize things. He even straightened out the rules for card games, and now everything is according to.

43. This Frenchman so idolized Napoleon that he became the butt of vaudeville jokes about his excessive patriotism. Now the militantly patriotic who prefer real estate over principle are called.

44. Father G.J. Kamel, a Jesuit priest who died at the beginning of the 18th century, is still remembered for the name he gave to certain Asiatic evergreen shrubs. They bear beautiful flowers called.
45. Once Vice President of the United States, this man made his name as Governor of Massachusetts and it is remembered today in a compound word that recalls his juggling of the boundaries of electoral districts to influence elections by disproportionate representation, namely ----.

46. His tenure as Minister of Finance in France (1759) was so brief and his reforms so skimpy and parsimonious that this man gave his name to cheap, fast, shadow-outline portraits still called ----.

47. James Kenney and his farce Raising the Wind (1803) have both been long forgotten, but a character in the play, one Jeremy Diddler, has given his name to a verb which Webster's Seventh New* Collegiate Dictionary defines (after saying origin unknown!) as "to waste (as time) in trifling". The word is ----.

48. This most famous resident of Seneca Falls, New York, was a pioneer of temperance, women's rights, etc. Somehow she thought all these things might be accomplished by putting women into moderately full trousers, called ----.

49. When Lincoln was shot, he was watching Tom Taylor's delightful farce, Our American Cousin (1859), in which a comic nobleman gave to his particular kind of wispy whiskers the name ----.

50. If you got too few of these right, you might want to call yourself a ----. You'd be in good company, though, with the eminent Scottish theologian who attacked Saint Thomas Aquinas and was thereafter labeled stupid by the Thomists.