ETHNIC ONOMASTICS

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Generally speaking, even those with only a mild interest in onomastics feel that they can usually pinpoint the national or ethnic origin of individuals simply by hearing their names. This becomes doubly so when the first and last names fall into the same presumed stereotypical category. For example, who would fail to recognize that Werner Schmidt was of German background or that Erin O’Flaherty was Irish?

However, all is not quite as obvious as it would appear, especially if we are to focus on the source or derivation of the name. What would you make of the following names?

1. Frances Roberts
2. Yuri Vasilevich
3. David Jones
4. Harvey O’Brien
5. Paul Kaplan
6. Arthur Powell
7. Sean Fitzgerald
8. Margaret Matthews
9. Javier Mendoza
10. Andrew McGregor
11. Brenda McAuliffe
12. Chester Pomfret

13. Carlos Rodriguez
14. Karen Anderson
15. Pablo Martinez
16. Siobhan Burke
17. Seamus Gilmore
18. Irving Murray
19. Sam Bartlett
20. Floyd Price
21. Tiffany Nicholla
22. Orlando Hernandez
23. Emma Sinclair
24. George Phillips

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