

The Beautiful
Name of
T r u d e l

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The beautiful name of Trudel

By Casimir Hébert

Anthroponymist
Montreal, January 10, 1950

In 2002, we have proceeded to the reprinting of the text ordered in 1950 to Casimir Hébert by Hubert Trudel then President of a whole new association "La Famille Trudel(le) Inc.". Now sixty-five years later, it was imperative to add explanations and references for the concepts and examples of the said text so that the modern reader may appreciate the true value of this anthroponymic study of the name Trudel written in 1950.

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«This text is not genealogy by anthroponymy¹, a science that may be qualified as paragenealogy which may help, may embellish and be used as preface by a genealogist².»

What is a surname ?

It is an inheritance, a flag, a plan of life.

An inheritance that our ancestors bequeathed to us and that we have to pass on without decreasing it. The surname comes from more or less far but steeped of glory that each carrier of the said surname gives it by the dignity of life³, the respect shown by others on his path, by his public spiritedness, his skill, his technique, his knowledge and its virtues.

A surname is like a flag which hide in its folds the glories of the homeland, as well each surname is fraught with the hereditary estate of the family. The surname is the symbols of the typical virtues of a family.

Finally, the surname is a plan of life from which one must not depart from the virtues of our forefathers which should be the ones of those bearing their names by giving them the life.

1. Anthroponymy is the study of family name.

2. Extract from the French text *Le beau nom de Drouin* by Casimir Hébert, 1951

3. What is a surname is an extract from the French text *Le beau nom de Plourde* by Casimir Hébert, 1949

Before giving the proof that the name of Trudel is a Germanic name, I had to demonstrate how the names of the Anglo-Saxons and of other peoples of Germania were formed.

The formation of names of persons in Germanic languages is the juxtaposition of two roots. In Anglo-Saxon, the names of persons present a general character of nicknames like Laurent and the local original names are exceptional and those of baptism as Duval or trade as Letourneur are unknown.

There exist four hundred and two roots, a hundred ninety-three of it always occupy the first place, thirty-two always the second place and finally in eighty-four cases we find two interchangeable roots.

That means that *ead* (prosperity) in all of its make of as Eadmund (guardian of prosperity) figures at the beginning of the name; on the other hand *lac* (activity) as for *Hygelac* (active thinking) is used at the end of the word and whereas heard is indifferently a prefix and a suffix: Heardbeorht (brave and brilliant) but can be Beorhtheard (Brilliant and Brave).

Due to the fact that people were talking to fast, the second element of these two root names had the tendency to disappear and was replaced by the termination a in Anglo-Saxon and by o in Germanic language.

Little words of tenderness, affectionate words, speaking in a childish way, playing with a child by affectionately imitating his language are hypocoristic⁴, summarized, shortened, diminished forms of the Greek verb *hypokorizo*.

This way Hugivald, Hugibert, Hugibald and others became Hugo, wherefrom Hugon and Huon, Cuthwulf, Cuthwine, Cuthbert in anglo-Saxon took a shortened form like Cutha.

The said form could afterwards enlarged by suffixes like *el*, *ic*, *oc*, *uc* or Cuthel. The name Willoc is a diminutive of a name of which the origin would be Wilhelm, Wiljhari, Wilhard, Wilfrith, Wilric, Willivald, Williwin.

I suspect the name of Trudel as being a shortened form of a Germanic name of the seventh century resulting as Trudo, Trudonis in the usual Latin.

This name could have been:

Trudibert, brilliant friend

Trudvald, reigning friend

Trudehard, friendly and brave

Trudimund, friend of the moon, friend of the shelter,
true protector

Trudifrith, friend of the peace

4. The word hypocoristic means affectionate intention.

Trudiman, warrior friend
Trudigar, friend of the javelin
Trudiric, powerful friend
Trudland, friend of the earth
Trudiwin, true friend, companions
Trudigund, frightening friend
Trudihild, friend of the light
Trudilin, boyfriend
Trudi-wulf, friend of the wolf
Trudirad, friendly councillor (adviser)

These fifteen names first *Trudo* then *Trudel* are the origin of the family names Trud, Trudon, Trudeau, Trudel, Trudelet, Trudelin, Trudelat, Trudelot, Trudelard, Trudonnet, Trudonel, Trudelinot and others. Trudel was already a seventh century Germanic form as diminutive of Trudo, name of the Belgian Saint, formerly written in French Tron.

This name is recorded as a place, Saint-Truiden (in French Saint-Trond), a city of 15,000 inhabitants in the Province of Limbourg near the town of Hasselt. There were still many worshippers in the territory of Hasbaye, Brabant when Saint Trudo converted this country by the radiance of his virtues.

His parents were of good birth and considerably wealthy, his father being the Blessed Adela of the family of the Dukes of Austrasia. When they passed away, he went to Metz and put himself under the supervision of the pious Bishop known as Clodulphe or Saint-Cloud. He divided his time in study,

charitable works, recitation of psalms, meditation of the laws of God and other exercises of piety.

After being ordained as priest, he returned to his homeland to eradicate the remaining idolization by his preaching. He built a monastery on his lands not only as a refuge for solidary persons but also as a school so the youth could be equally instructed in science and piety. The said monastery belonging to the order of the Benedictines opened up the city of Saint-Truiden and was subordinated to the Bishop of Liège.

The holy priest founded another monastery near Bruges in Flanders. This abbey for girls has also the name of Saint-Truiden. The holy founder died in 693. It does not appear that he ever entered upon the monastic state as many authors believed.

The Trudel can invoke Saint Tron in French (Sint Truiden in Flemish and Saint Truiden in English) and called him Saint Trudel, a way to give him an affectionate name as Jeannot for Jean, Pierrot for Pierre, Lionel for Léon and Antonin or Toiniche for Antoine.

No, the saints do not take offence of name changes. If Trudo became Tron and Trond for the Belgians, why not Trudel for the Trudel and Trudeau of Canada ?

From the Chapter of the Clercs founded in 655 by a priest named Father Trudo originated the city of

Saint Truiden named in a tentative of bribery. This Chapter became the Abbey of the Benedictines at the beginning of the eighth century. This abbey had a brilliant period due to the fact that its abbot was Prince of the Empire, the temporal lord of a part of the city. The Abbey was devastated by the troops of the Earl of the Mark in 1486 and was eliminated at the end of the eighteenth century by the French government.

The City de Saint-Truiden and the abbey were burned by the Normans in the years 882 and 891. The abbey was restored and the city surrounded by walls in 1058 and again burned by the army of the Bishop of Liège. This unfortunate city suffered a lot of assaults from surrounding sovereigns who were envying the ownership of it as well as being the victim of the boisterousness of its inhabitants.

Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy gave instructions for the demolition of the fortifications of Saint-Truiden in 1457 after having crushed the army of Liège at Brusthem, near Saint Truiden. The troops of the Prince of Orange devastated completely the city in 1568.

The French occupied the city in 1672 and 1676 and the fortifications which had been raised earlier were demolished again. The victory of the French at the battle of Fontenoy of 1745 in the territory of the Austrian Netherlands now known as Belgium was the beginning of the French occupation of this country

and was followed by the first attempt of annexation in 1792 and the second one in 1794 resulting in the reunion of the Austrian Netherlands as French territory. The city of Saint-Truiden became a canton of the Department of the Lower Meuse. The occupation of Belgium by the German army lasted from 1939 until late 1944 when the British, Canadian and American armies liberated the country. The Tower of the church of the Seminary of Saint-Truiden is a vestige of the old abbey of Saint-Truiden.

The French version of Saint Truiden "Saint-Tron" left few traces in the French toponymy. It is understandable since he was a Belgian saint not really popular in France. All we can retrace is La Troudière in Eure, Tron in la Vienne, Trudo in l'Île-et-Vilaine and the Trudon Farm in the Lower Charente but no trace of Trudel. In fact, Trudel is neither a saint's name nor a name of origin.

It is a personal first name, diminutive of Trudo, the hypocoristic form of about fifteen Germanic names which the most frequent is Trudibert "brilliant friend", source of the names Trubert and Turbert. This personal surname of Trudel whose goes back up to Merovech⁵ and his companions turned out to be a surname around 1250.

5. Merovech, semi-legendary king of the Frankish tribe from 448 to 457, founder of the Merovingian dynasty.

Trudel, a Germanic patronymic, transplanted in France and later on in Canada, spelt as Trudelle following the practice in these countries to double the voiced final consonants and became for few emigrants to United States Trudell by deleting the silent letter *e*. Doing this, gave them the advantage of make it appear more anglo-saxon.

This alternation was reasonable because it does not lead to forget the original name and made no problem for the genealogists. Anyway, it is natural that names evolve in passing from a country to another, a province to another.

The names are imposed by society but preserved by the individuals and the official documents. If you do not want a change of your name, you had to see about it, resist, protest and claim your rights. It is natural that a pleasant nickname be replaced by an unknown and lost name. In that view, the Pion wishes to be Lafontaine, Houré to be Laferrière, Caillé to be Jasmin. It was their decision and they accepted the transformation. Who can blame them? I will not be the one.

The ones who saw Trudibert diminished as Trudo, being latinized as Trudon, Truon. Tron and finally Trond, knew that Trudo has for diminutive Trudel and its equivalence Trudeau would not be scandalized if the descendants of Jean Trudelle had shortened their name of a syllable or if others took out only one letter to avoid an exotic sounding name.

A surname should not have a different spelling in our time but we had to accept it with its modification, variation and so called clerical errors⁶.

Would it be possible to verify if Trudel may have another origin ?

The Latin of the word thrush is *turda* and *Turdus*. The diminutives of these words are *turdela* and *Turdulus*. The meaning of the word *Turdulus* is relative to the *Turdules*, people of the Baetique living in the east part of Spain near the *Turdetani*.

The Baetique was doubtless the land of the thrushes. Plautus⁷, in his comedy *The Captives* took the liberty to do a pun between *Turdetani* and the word *turdus*, thrush. If the *Turditani* is nodding, it is because he is eager for thrush, that they favoured "lovers of thrushes" *Turdurum avidos* (Capt. 1, 2, 60)⁸.

The word *turdus* designated a saltwater fish of the family of the wrasse, the *tourd*. From the Latin *turdela* we have another thrush called fieldfare. From the Latin *turdillus*, we now have the small thrush from which we have the adjective *tourdille* meaning "which approaches the colour of the thrust". A

6. This sentence is an extract of the French text *Le beau nom de Hébert* by Casimir Hébert, 1950.

7. Titus Maccius Plautus (c. 254 – 184 BC), commonly known as "Plautus", was a Roman playwright of the Old Latin period.

8. Citation from the Greek comedy *The Captives* by Titus Maccius Plautus.

yellowish grey horse is a steed of a dirty grey colour. The adjective *tourd* is used to designate a kind of birds including the thrushes and the blackbirds. The fieldfare French names are the *tourd*, *toured*, *tourdre* and *tourdelle*.

But by metathesis, the latin word *trudelus* would have been able to give *trudelus*, from whence *Trudel* and *Trudeau* for example as in French as *bel* and *beau*, *nouvel* and *nouveau* but *is* was used only for the name of the *Trudel* family because *tourdelle* became *Troudelle*, the law of the least action resulted in the pronunciation of the letter *u* instead of the letters *ou*.

This etymology is fair but the name of *Trudel* is more likely a hypocoristic German diminutive. In that case, there is infinity of interpretations from which we have treated at least fifteen of them so that the *Trudel* have the choice.

For the needs being, my choice is "brilliant friend". The prevailing idea is the one of friendship, veracity and furthermore friendship means nothing without sincerity; a friend is a sincere man. I would like to compare the English version of truth and the Germanic version of *drud*.

This leads us to propose to the *Trudel* the sincerity as a family virtue knowing that it has a Latin version being the equivalent of *sine cera*, unpretentiously, natural and true. The *Trudel* of Canada had taken as

motto *Ad Sum*, I am present. This motto especially means I am helping, I am assisting, I am a rescuer. Is it not what friends do rescuing? The Trudel had no choice but help each other's and their family association allows them to fraternize, to have consideration for others, to be fond and have a helping hand between members due to their frequent contacts.

Ad Sum, I am nearly present as a friend should be. It is mostly important for the Trudel considering the interpretation of their name have no doubt that the Trudel will be anxious to justify their beautiful name by a policy of consideration, respect, courtesy and friendly sincerity.

As charity begins at home, the Trudel are not only the "brilliant friends" of those who bear their name but of everybody else. The Trudel of United States who may be ill at ease to explain the Germanic or Latin signification of the name Trudel are able to get out of trouble in saying that Trudel means "true deal", a treaty of friendly behaviour⁹.

In Canada, the Trudel have distinguished themselves in literature, as members of religious orders and professions. They have a really alike family association which is publishing its own informational magazine. To those who like the idea of taking the

9. This text was written in 1950 during the cold war period.

name of Trudel from the Latin *Turdus*, thrush, I am offering an alliterative that could be served as an eloquent motto: *Trudelli, non tarduli*, thrushes, without tardiness, we are little birds known as fieldfare but we are active and an early riser, not slow to make the most of one's good fortune. We all know that the early bird has the first choice for its pittance.

The interpretation of the name of Harry S. Truman¹⁰ is the same one as the Trudel, friendly man and true man. This name has the Germanic origin of Trudiman "warrior friend" which the hypocoristic form would be Trudo and the diminutive Trudel. In such a company, I do not see why the Trudel should not be glorifying themselves of their beautiful name.

CASIMIR HÉBERT
anthroponymist

Montreal, January 10, 1950

10. President of United States from April 12, 1945 to January 20, 1953.

