



*From the Inkwell to the Internet*

April 19, 2004

Ms. Fiona Jack  
CalArts ME-13  
24700 McBean Pkwy.  
Valencia, CA 91355

Dear Ms. Jack:

Your letter addressed to Dr. Mish has been given to me for reply.

Names of nationalities are entered in *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* as a group so long as there is some evidence of their use by native speakers of English. Those which have an additional meaning, such as the name of a language, are entered in the main A to Z vocabulary section. Others, including most of those on your "missing" list, are shown as undefined boldface run-ons at their respective place-names in the Geographical Names section which begins on page 1511. Our reason for not entering all of them in the main section of the book is to save space, which is of limited availability. Another space-saving rule is omission of nationality names consisting of the country name plus the word *Islander*, as we deem these to be easily derivable by the dictionary user.

Lastly, I'd like to mention that while the place-name derivatives entered in the dictionary are the preferable ones for use in English language contexts, forms not in the dictionary are acceptable if they are formed by a combination of the place-name and one of the established suffixes meaning "a person of or from." If you are interested in learning more about individual nationality names, I suggest you consult a book published by this company titled *Labels for Locals*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Hopkins".

Daniel J. Hopkins

DJH/gbb

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