

## A NEW DICTIONARY OF FIRST NAMES

A review of LESLIE DUNKLING and WILLIAM GOSLING, Everyman's Dictionary of First Names, Dent: London and Melbourne, 1983, xvi + 304 pp., £9.50.

This dictionary deals with first names generally in use in the English-speaking world during the last four centuries. The most important feature is its basis in name-counts from a wide variety of sources, mainly British and American; with such an impressive statistical underpinning it is more informative and more reliable concerning recent and current usage than any comparable reference work. The authors claim that they deal with 'the first names borne by at least 95% of the English-speaking population' (p.xi). There are around 4500 entries, more than four times the number in its most obvious competitors, the Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names (3rd edition, 1977) by E. G. Withycombe, and American Given Names (1979) by George Stewart (reviewed in NOMINA VII, 141-4). A detailed examination of names beginning with the letter A revealed that Everyman's Dictionary contains about 250 names not discussed in Withycombe. These include names imported from other countries into the American name-stock; surnames used as Christian names; and many recent coinages, for example blends, clippings and diminutives (particularly among girls' names like Jeanine, Jolene, Lianne, and Sharolyn), as well as spelling variations such as Daran, Daren, Darin, Darren, and Daryn, a feature of current naming which, in Britain at least, testifies to an increasing permissiveness among clergymen and registrars of births during the last couple of decades.

As far as the general public is concerned, Everyman's Dictionary is bound to become the standard work on the subject, for its unparalleled comprehensiveness is attractively coupled with information about both origins and recent usage, much space being devoted to names made prominent by their use in literature, the cinema, and other types of popular entertainment. For the scholar, however, the dictionary is disappointingly less than it sets out to be. One of its declared aims is to state, whenever possible, 'to what extent the name has been used since its introduction and by which social groups' (p.x). Many entries, such as those for Ashley, Elvis, Hannah, Samantha, and Zarah, are model discussions in every respect except that of identifying the social groups in which the names have, or have not, occurred. Thinking of British names which I suspected of showing a fairly marked social bias, I consulted the entries for Georgina, Jennifer, Joanne, Tracy, Charles, Nigel, Craig, Dean, Lee, and Wayne, but with no better luck, for, as with the majority of names in this book, popularity is charted solely by the gross national statistics of usage, not by distribution among different socio-occupational groupings. Religious and ethnic affiliations receive better attention, although in unequal measure. We are told often that a name has been favoured by Puritans or by Black American Muslims; occasionally that a name has been current among Catholic families; rarely that it is common among Jewish families; never that a name has been popular among Methodists or was revived by the Tractarians. Names specifically used by Black Americans (like Dejuan, Kiana, and Ladonna) are regularly identified, as are the predilections of the Welsh, Scots, and Irish, but Australian, Canadian, and West Indian preferences get only the odd mention, while those of other ethnic or geographical minorities in Britain are unrepresented, as are names usages in several parts of the world where English is a mother tongue or is the language of education and government. To a large extent such inconsistencies only reflect the patchiness of the information available to the compilers of this dictionary, but it does suggest that in a future edition they might either qualify their declared aims

more carefully or else undertake the research that is necessary if this is truly to be an authoritative dictionary of first names in the whole of the English-speaking world.

Genealogical considerations are also somewhat neglected, both in regard to explaining the introduction of names into the stock and in regard to their regular and prolonged use within particular families. (Withycombe is more informative.) One may wonder, therefore, at the reason for including quite so many surnames (e.g. Knight, Painter, Porter, Watson) whose scattered occurrence as first names in nineteenth-century England usually reflects a wish to honour the maternal side of a family or to honour a godparent. Very few of these have attained the status of Ashley, Leslie, Sidney, and Stanley, for example, as full members of the British stock of first names.

My criticisms so far of this very useful book simply emphasise the substantial difficulties in fulfilling some of the tasks which the authors have set themselves. They are modestly aware that 'the compilers of a dictionary such as this are required to have a peculiar set of skills' (p.xi) and that 'since we are only human, we are weaker in some areas than in others' (ibid.). One would be wholly and sympathetically disarmed by such an admission were it not that a few weaknesses unfortunately occur in crucial areas and urgently need attention before the next edition appears.

Given the stated intention (p.x) to record precisely where, when, and with what intensity names have been in general currency, there are too many entries where some or all of this information is unaccountably missing. Under the letter A, for instance, this applies to Abishas (f), Admiral (m), Alayne (f), Alexis (m, f), Aley (f), Alison (f), Alix (f), Alpha (f), Althea (f), Ambrose (m), Anchor (m), Anders (m), Andra (f), Anouska (f), Ariel (m), Arley (m), Arrow (m), Ashby (m), Ashton (m), Asia (f), Athene (f), Atlantic (m), Auburn (m), Avery (m), and Avice (f). Even where dates of introduction and frequency of usage are provided, the information is usually expressed in formulae which are disappointingly imprecise considering that the exact statistics must be available from the authors' own name counts. Phrases like 'rare', 'little used', 'fairly common', 'quietly used', 'with reasonable frequency', 'used regularly', 'quietly but regularly used', 'well used', 'mildly popular', and 'very popular' leave the reader with only a vague impression of ill-defined relativity. All we get by way of definition is a statement (on p.x) that 'when a name is used "regularly but infrequently", as we often phrase it in this dictionary, we mean that an example occurs in our records every few years . . . Names which we also describe as "quietly used" fall into this category.' It appears from the succeeding comments on 'distribution of names in a particular year' (ibid.) that the standard by which frequency of usage is measured in any century is derived from twentieth-century configurations of recurrence. This makes no allowance for the great discrepancy between naming patterns in the period from the sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries and naming patterns in the period from the mid-nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. In the earlier period the name stock was stable and relatively small, while the same top three names among children of each sex in the parish registers I have studied account for about fifty per cent of total usage. In the modern period the name stock has become less and less stable while increasing its size at a prodigious rate. By the twentieth century the three most popular names of each sex in any one decade account for only about fifteen per cent of total usage; there are rapid swings in fashion as to which are the most favoured names; and of course the number of children registered in any one year has increased by many times during the past century and a half. A phrase like 'mildly popular', which is never defined statistically, cannot mean the same thing for both eighteenth-century and twentieth-century usage.

It must be allowed that this dictionary is expressly aimed at 'parents with the pleasant task of choosing a name' and at 'browsers' (quotations from the dust-jacket), not at historians looking for statistical information on past naming practices. But this is not a justification for imprecision or for historical inaccuracy in a work aiming at authoritativeness. It is unnerving to be assured that 'E. G. Withycombe . . . made careful counts of names occurring in medieval records. Her remarks about that period are therefore completely reliable' (p. vi). In consequence, many of Withycombe's errors are given a further lease of spurious authority, as in the assertions that 'Ella was much used in the Middle Ages' (p. 80) and that 'Samson was a popular figure in the medieval mystery plays and these ensured that this name was well used in the 12th c.' (p. 249). Withycombe's assumption that the Reformation brought about a general decline in the popularity of non-biblical saints' names and of biblical saints' names associated with Catholic doctrines, can be disproven by many examples, as the entries in Everyman's Dictionary for Catherine, Christopher, Margaret, Mary, and Ursula demonstrate. Yet we are still told, on no better grounds, it seems, than unsubstantiated guesswork, that the popularity of Agnes and George was impeded by Protestant hostility to names of non-biblical saints, and that Peter suffered from 'anti-Catholic feeling'. There is altogether too much readiness to snatch at a convenient hypothesis without critically examining its general validity. Are we seriously to believe that the decline in occurrences of Lister, one of very many nineteenth-century surnames whose use as a first name was ephemeral and probably largely familial, was directly attributable to the growing fame of Joseph Lister (died 1912)? (Too antiseptic for some?) About Joan it is claimed that 'Its own popularity caused it to go out of favour in the 17th c.'. Were popularity (among the lower classes) sufficient cause for general unpopularity we would be hard pressed to explain the long-term popularity of Ann, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Thomas, and William.

As the authors rightly say, compilers of a first name dictionary 'must have specialized linguistic training' (p. xi). Unfortunately it is in this department that their own work is most seriously defective. Part of the entry for Boniface reads as follows: 'Change in spelling from Bonifatius to Bonifacius by 13th c. presumably due to the pronunciation -fashjus. . .'. Where and by whom was this supposed pronunciation used? In Middle English there was a shift of -ti- from /sj/ to /ʃ/ but this is not recorded before the fifteenth century. In any case the re-spelling (and etymological re-interpretation) of Bonifatius as Bonifacius was French, occurring as early as the eighth century, and was made possible by the phonetic convergence of -ti- and -ci- as /tsi/; see M. -T. Morlet, Les noms de personne sur le territoire de l'ancienne Gaule du VIe au XIIIe siècle, II (Paris, 1972), 28-9. As for etymologies, there are some terrible muddles, particularly in the handling of Old English and Old Germanic derivations. Many of Withycombe's long-discredited etymologies are repeated, sometimes in a form which compounds the original error. Norman names of Germanic origin such as Ralf, Randolf, Reynold, Robert, and Roger are given OE etymons. Aldous (m) is treated as an OG masculine name, whereas it is actually a transferred surname derived from a hypocoristic form of an OE feminine name. Segar (m) is wrongly ascribed to OE Sigehere (an impossible source); it would be from OE \*Sægār. Adolphus, imported into Britain by the Hanoverian royal family, is unaccountably attributed to both OG Adalwolf (sic) and OE Æthelwulf. Similarly Albert is ascribed not only to OG Adalbert but to OE Æthelbeorht. Because modern Elwin is regarded as a variant of Alvin, its OE source (Ealdwine) is also mistakenly allocated to Alvin (correctly from OE Ælfwine). Charles is not from OE ceorl 'man, husbandman',

and the failure to mention when the name is first recorded in England points up the etymological gaff. Emerson (m) is said to be 'Old English "descendant of Emery" '; are we to understand that Emery is an OE name (it is actually from OG Amalric and was introduced by the Normans) or, worse, that the patronymic Emerson is Old English instead of late, and probably northern, Middle English? It is stated that Emerson has been 'a surname since the 13th c.'; this might be true, but Reaney's earliest example in his Dictionary of British Surnames (2nd edn, 1976) is dated 1411. When, in the next entry, Emery is said to be the 'English form of German Emmerich "home-power"', the uninformed reader could be forgiven for concluding that 'Old English' and 'Old German' are interchangeable terms. Likewise Ethelinda, s.n. Ethel, is wrongly listed as an OE personal name; more confusingly, s.n. Ethelinda we are told that it is 'Old German athal linde' and an 'Anglo-Saxon name revived in the 19th c.'. Perhaps not surprisingly in view of the foregoing, there is no consistency in the presentation of linguistic origins. Sometimes we are given an etymological form (commonly the one in Withycombe, with attendant errors), more usually just the 'meanings' of the elements. These are now and again formulated as if they were meant to make sense as compounds, as with Eric 'Old Norse "ruler of all" or "always ruler"', and Walter 'Old German "ruling people"', where the elements are also partly misinterpreted. One of the worst examples of confusion occurs in the entry for Seward: 'Surname "sea-victory" or "sea-guardian" used as a first name especially at the end of the 19th c.' Besides failing to note that Seward occurs as an early ME Christian name (which therefore could possibly have been revived in the nineteenth century) the authors get their lines horribly crossed by combining in 'sea-victory' the 'meanings' of the first elements of the two (or three) pre-Conquest names from which Seward derived: OE Saeweward and OE Sigeward / ODan Sigwarth.

The fact that 'a name's "meaning" today has very little to do with its original meaning, unless the latter is obvious' (pp. viii-ix) in no way releases the compilers of this dictionary from the obligation to provide reliable etymologies, as they readily acknowledge. But the protestation that 'the etymologies are as accurate as we can get them' (p. viii) is unacceptable. The omissions in their bibliography bear out the conclusion that they have not yet taken sufficient trouble to check English and Germanic etymologies in up-to-date specialist reference works. Relying on Withycombe will not do, and it is simply untrue that 'Professor Weekley's various books on names, especially his Jack and Jill [1939], are probably the best source in English for a second opinion on etymologies' (p. vii). This matter ought to be put right in the next edition. Appropriate works by Forssner, Förstemann, Morlet, Seltén, and von Feilitzen should be consulted; failing that, a more thorough inspection of works already listed in the bibliography (Reaney's Dictionary of British Surnames (but the second edition, not the first as listed there) and Basil Cottle's Penguin Dictionary of Surnames) would at least remove the worst of Withycombe's mistaken etymologies for many of those Anglo-Saxon and Norman Christian names that gave rise to surnames. I cannot safely judge the reliability of the etymologies given for Gaelic and biblical names, but I notice that some of those cited by Dunkling and Gosling do not correspond to those given in the most recent scholarly dictionaries - Gaelic Personal Names by D. Ó Corráin and F. Maguire (Dublin, 1981) and the Dictionary of Proper Names and Places in the Bible by O. Odelain and R. Séguineau (New York, 1981; London, 1982).

I am aware that complaints about Everyman's Dictionary of First Names have occupied most of this lengthy review, and it would be unfair to leave the impression that this reflects the balance of achievements and shortcomings. In its coverage of names currently in use and in its sometimes very detailed charting of cultural influences

upon naming fashions in recent centuries, this book makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of first names in most parts of the English-speaking world, and it will surely be plundered by other compilers of first name dictionaries. The foundation of this publication's chief strength is well illustrated in the four last pages where are listed the top fifty names in England and Wales for the years 1925, 1950, 1965, 1975, and 1981, and the top fifty in the U.S.A. for 1925, 1950, 1970, and 1982 (white and non-white separately). But only when the more serious weaknesses have been remedied can the publishers justifiably claim that this is 'the most authoritative, up-to-date and thorough dictionary of first names to have been published' (quotation from the dust-jacket).

A handful of textual errors should be noted: p.x, for 'pages XX-YY' read 'pages 301-304'; p.5, s.n. Ailie, for 'Poet form of Ailis' read 'Pet form of Ailis'; p.16, smn. Ann, Anna, 'Apocryphal' is twice mis-spelt; p.27, s.n. Bartholomew, for 'Nathaneal' read 'Nathanael'; p.119, s.n. Hepzibah, l.10, for '10th c.' read '20th c.'.

PETER McCLURE

NILS WRANDER, English Place-Names in the Dative Plural, Lund Studies in English No. 65: Lund, 1983, 171 pp., no price stated.

Thematic studies are much needed in place-name research, as they complement the standard approaches of regional survey and dictionary compilation. Dr Wrander's monograph on English place-names in the dative plural is the latest of a number of distinguished contributions of this type from Swedish universities. Particularly useful features are the distribution map on p.171 and the section in the Introduction entitled 'Previous Research'. This last combines Swedish thoroughness with something approaching English brevity.

My main criticism of the book is that Dr Wrander does not always use the most recent works of reference, and does not always distinguish between recent and out-dated authorities. The bibliography does not include Barrie Cox's article 'The Place-Names of the Earliest English Records' (JEPNS 8). Consequently Herotunum and Hugabeorgum, the two dative plural settlement-names recorded by A.D. 730, are not included in the study. These two instances are important as showing that although this is mainly a late manner of forming place-names it is also evidenced at an early date. The section in Chapter I which deals with relevant names in charter boundaries cites long-discarded locations and identifications by Birch and Grundy. Dr Wrander mostly follows these with comments such as 'Grundy's identification is of little value', but there is really no point in saying about BCS 834 'According to Birch the county is Brk' when everyone now agrees that the document in question (Sawyer 525) refers to Washington Sx, and there is no reason why a primarily philological study should quote Grundy's etymologies. Ekwall's English River-Names (also missing from the bibliography) might have been consulted for Aln (recte Alham) and for Treselcotum in this section.

Chapters II and III, in which the remainder of the material is set out, are appreciably sounder than Chapter I, though Chapter III includes two names, Flitton Bd and Wycombe Le, which recent studies have shown not to be dative plurals. Chapter IV gives a list of elements found in this type of name, with the examples in which they occur. There is a final chapter of 'Conclusions', with a table of statistics for the counties in which dative plural names are found. These statistics are inflated by the counting of (e.g.) Hotham Carr and Hotham Moor and Laytham and Laytham Grange as separate items. In Yorkshire, Wharram Percy and Wharram le Street are counted as two names, though Wharram is generally agreed to be the name of the valley in which both settlements lie. This manner of counting doubles the figures for Derbyshire, and of course it makes a great deal of difference to the distribution map. The map does, nevertheless, give a true impression of the distribution, and it brings out a marked tendency to cluster, which may be important for regional settlement-history. The discussion (p.132) of the extent to which this manner of name-formation is to be associated with Old Norse influence is admirably sensible.

Dr Wrander's book is a useful collection of material, and care is taken throughout to distinguish between ambiguous and certain examples. Most of the etymological discussions are summaries of previous opinions, but one new suggestion deserves careful consideration. Ilam St is tentatively ascribed to ON hylr 'pool, deep place in a river'. If accepted, this will be of considerable significance for the history of the settlement. There are other ON names (Swinscoe and Thorpe) in the immediate vicinity, but the hitherto accepted view of Ilam has been that suggested by Ekwall, which is that it preserves the pre-English name of the River Manifold.

MARGARET GELLING

K. RUTHERFORD DAVIS, *Britons and Saxons: the Chiltern Region, 400-700*, Phillimore: Chichester, 1982, xiii + 172 pp., 7 plates, 11 maps, £9.95.

The author introduces this work by stating that he aims to use all available evidence to elucidate what happened in the 'Chiltern region' in the period 410-c. 700. Superficially the aim appears to be fulfilled, but the picture presented cannot be accepted as plausible. It is stated, with regard to British survival, that 'an element of speculation is unavoidable', but more than just an element pervades the whole book.

Our suspicions are aroused early by the handling of the place-names - normally cited without details of first record and with eccentric forms for the elements, e.g. the plural tuns for tūnas, and the erratic use of length marks. Some elements are incorrectly defined as habitative by selecting one only of their possible meanings (pp. 68-9, 84), while on Map 5 just the first part of the modern form of each name is given, not the elements involved. Rutherford Davis believes that place-names constitute an objective form of evidence (p. 1), but they are only as objective as their users, and their formation and distribution is governed by factors as complex as is the human bias in literary sources.

There is a lack of adequate references throughout (e.g., pp. 1, 34, 137-45) and a cavalier attitude to the work of others; Skeat is cited in the text but is not in the bibliography, while there are no references for the derivations given for the names on pp. 153-7. Are they from the relevant EPNS volumes, from Professor Kenneth Jackson, or entirely the author's own? It is also surprising to see a discussion of Beneficcan (pp. 114-15) without reference to Jackson's work, and many sources cited are out of date; worst perhaps is the serious acceptance of Beddoe's 1885 hypothesis that a British racial strain could still be detected in the Chilterns 1,300 years later, totally ignoring all recent work on the effects of intermixing of peoples.

There are many statements which reflect serious ignorance of recent research in archaeology and landscape history; for reasons of space, however, the present review will limit itself to pointing out the main errors in the place-name sections. There is, for example, no reason to suppose that the bulk of the place-names were formed as the result of a steady expansion of population (p. 100); even a small population will require names for nearby features. The whole chronology of names proposed by Rutherford Davis is open to grave doubts. Firstly, he uses them to throw light on the settlement period without relation to their first date of recording. No real reason is shown why the tūn names should be ascribed to the eighth-ninth centuries (p. 81) as the element could have continued in use throughout the Anglo-Saxon period; in fact the whole discussion of the relationship of tūn names to other elements (pp. 70, 80) is quite unsound. It is also extremely dangerous to assume that most of the names not recorded until a later date were already in existence in 1086 (p. 80) or that the use of affixes such as 'new, north', etc, always shows late formation. An 'impression of antiquity' (p. 81) is not sufficient for the dating of worth names (including the one third of them recorded after the eleventh century; p. 70) to well before the eleventh century. There is also no reason why tūn names should denote English communities already existing in 571 (p. 63), especially since the term could have been applied to British as well as to English groups. It is this outdated concept of the Anglo-Saxons coming into an empty landscape, which the author himself rejects elsewhere (p. 3), which partly lies behind the belief that topographic names should be earlier than habitative ones (pp. 70-1). This may have been true of early prehistory, but is less certain in a landscape already well-provided with Romano-British settlements.

There is some confusion about the nature of -inga-, -ingas names. It is suggested that the personal names involved commemorate actual individuals who led the early communities (p. 70), whereas these could be family names given on the Continent or else later eponymous ancestors. This leads to the suggestion that the occurrence locally of the same personal-name in more than one place-name points to an early estate (p. 79), but that there was subsequently a social change, with the formation of tūn names by groups of fairly equal status (p. 80), although the material presented shows no such thing. Just because -ingtūn names are not numerous there is no reason to suppose that they must have been coined over a short period of time (p. 79), especially as names are included (p. 149) which are not -inga- names of the early type as defined by J. McN. Dodgson. Most incredible of all is the attempt to date most of the -ingas names to a time span of less than fifty years (p. 78), despite the author's own earlier strictures on such dating (p. 76).

To take but a few examples of the many other points on which one must differ from Rutherford Davis: it is not unusual for river names to be Celtic (p. 42); it is dangerous to assume that eccles names must refer to a Christian community (p. 119) rather than to an abandoned earlier church; and why repeat John Morris's erroneous view that wealh meaning 'slave' was restricted to West Saxon (p. 126), while an early wealhstod translating from British to English is more likely to have been of British than English stock (p. 123)? Saxon burgas could have been 'old' well before pre-1086 names were formed for them and so need not relate to Iron Age sites (p. 83), and other burh names may related to single fortified residences known from the law-codes rather than to large defended settlements (p. 83). Names relating to heathen practices need not have been given while the customs involved were still actively pursued (p. 35); and 'head' names need not refer to places of sacrifice.

At one extreme the author heaps up all material, relevant or not (e.g., p. 152), and includes late-recorded names which may not have been formed until after the Norman Conquest but which strengthen his case, as when he includes all woodland names recorded up to 1350, not 1086, to delineate pre-Conquest woodland (p. 16). At the other extreme he is very selective, taking awkward hām names to be hamm names simply because the area where they occur has few other early names (p. 72). The treatment of Dorchester-on-Thames highlights this special pleading; there is no evidence that the AS Chronicle means Dorchester when it says Bennington (pp. 65, 108). This illustrates another technique employed, of putting forward an idea which is then silently assumed as proven fact on which further hypotheses are then constructed. Thus we move from the possibility that the Taepa of Taplow is the man buried there, to discussion of the size of his dominion (p. 74) and eventually to the incredible statement that 'about 600 the Slough district was ruled by a local magnate called Taepa who was richly buried in a barrow at Taplow' (p. 108).

The author compounds the problems of his book by moving outside his own region into areas (e.g. the East Anglian dykes, p. 49) and periods with which he is less well acquainted. The Danish settlement among the English is not a valid comparison to that of the Anglo-Saxons among the British, as the Vikings spoke a language similar to Old English. The suggestion that if adequate records were not available 'we would be perplexed to understand its nature' (p. 123) illustrates the author's confusion; we are perplexed to understand the nature of the Danish settlement. On the other hand, the similarity of physical appearance of the British and English made intermarriage acceptable, unlike the Africans, whose colour ensured their survival as a distinct group in American society (p. 113). The medieval parallel for the role and status of Verulamium

misunderstands the organisation of the medieval economy; the caput of a well-organised manorial honour was usually considerably more than just a manor-house (p. 112) and places do not survive as centres just because of their former prestige (*ibid.*), but because they continue to fulfil an economic, religious or other function. Similarly, the choices made by eleventh-century kings as to where to build themselves houses throws no light whatsoever on the earlier situation (p. 117).

All things considered there is very little in this book with which I can find myself in agreement. I would accept the summary of how the British were probably assimilated into the English culture (p. 113), although delineated with a rather broad and generalising hand, and also the author's interpretation of tautological English/Celtic place-name formations (p. 98), which draws largely on earlier work. Finally, Rutherford Davis's explanation of why most of the Celtic names borrowed are of a topographic nature is acceptable in general terms (p. 99), although it does not explain the absence of elements such as llys in eastern and central England. Apart from these, however, there is little else in this book which can be accepted without the closest scrutiny.

MARGARET L. FAULL

ADRIAN ROOM, A Concise Dictionary of Modern Place-Names in Great Britain and Ireland, Oxford University Press: Oxford and New York, 1983, xlv + 148 pp., £8.95.

Saffron Walden, Broughton Poggs, and Stow-on-the-Wold seem to be among the less likely candidates for inclusion in a work bearing this title. But Mr Room, who early in his introduction tells us that 1500 is the 'watershed date', justifies their presence in the book, the aim of which, he says, is 'to fill an embarrassing gap in British and Irish place-name studies' - namely the omission from many standard works of names originating after the qualifying date.

In the introduction the author explores the historical events which have brought about the creation of modern names, including plantations in Ireland and the Industrial Revolution in all the countries surveyed. Under the heading 'Topographical Sources' is a review of important literary and cartographical works of the period after 1500, with details of convenient editions of some of them; a brief survey of recent general books on place-names is supplemented with brief critical comments. The research has been wide-ranging, and Mr Room may have set a record in the toponymic world by including an acknowledgement to the Jockey Club. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the horse Beeswing is accorded who as a relative pronoun, which will doubtless be found most satisfactory by many in this hippolatrous generation.

The author deplores Ekwall's omission from DEPN of a dozen or so particular names, as though some culpability were involved. That authority's statement of intent is as clear as Mr Room's, and the 'reader who turns to Ekwall to learn the origin of such well-known places as Burgess Hill, etc.' may indeed be excused for not knowing that these are late names, but cannot complain that the author does not give notice of their omission. Is there not a risk that, in its turn, the book being reviewed may be blamed by an uninstructed reader who does not know whether a name being sought is ancient or modern?

The names selected have had to meet the criteria set out in a long note preceding the alphabetic section of the work. In the face of the details of his fourth class of entry, it would be wrong to demur at the inclusion of the examples given above, or of Bournemouth, Thornaby-on-Tees, or Bognor Regis. This category comprises 'names that are basically old, but which have come to be known in their modern form accompanied by a recent addition such as a distinguishing prefix, suffix or other word'. Nevertheless, it will inevitably seem that it was barely necessary to consider them, since their etymologies will be found in other works, and many of the additions are self-explanatory. It seems even harder to justify entries for obsolete names, such as Hullshire. Without these there would have been more space for the really modern names, about which readers might expect to find all that they want to know. Sometimes, however, they will be just as disappointed as those who search in DEPN for recently-created toponyms.

In the introduction (p. xi) Mr Room leads us to expect something special in his explanation of one Sussex name, but when the appropriate entry is consulted, there is no more in it about 'who was the "Burgess" of Burgess Hill' than is set out in PNSx. Similarly, on turning to the entry on Crystal Palace, the reader finds no explanation of the name except that it 'began as that of a large building originally erected in Hyde Park', etc., and was 'destroyed by fire in 1936' - without any reference to the glass that really accounts for the name. Again, in not one of the three entries, East

Lothian, Midlothian, and West Lothian, is the name Lothian itself explained, apart from its being 'an old name for the whole area between the Firth of Forth and the river Tweed'.

Possible confusion of name and place is occasionally found, especially regarding back-formation of some river-names. Ter is described as 'a back formation of the village of Terling', and Penk 'a back formation of the village of Penkridge'; there is a strange choice of words s. n. Cam: 'The villages of West and Queen Camel are on the river, whose name is a back formation from their common Camel'. This confusion perhaps indicates a greater emphasis on topography than on toponymy. When place-names originate in personal names, there is no objection to leaving the information at that point, without providing etymologies of surnames. In this, the author follows normal practice, and most readers will expect no more than the biographical details plentifully and usefully provided; but when a river-name is derived from a place-name (whether modern or ancient) it is surely reasonable to provide a brief explanation of that name.

There are, nevertheless, many interesting and informative articles on names of recent origin; the author has utilised a wide variety of sources to establish his data, and it becomes clear that a full solution of many modern names requires historical material as well as early forms. It would be easy to regard Alexandria, in Dunbartonshire, as a transfer of the Egyptian place-name. From this book, however, we learn not only that it is named after Alexander Smollett (a fact duly recorded in Johnston and in Gelling, Nicolaisen, Richards, Names of Towns and Cities), but also that Renton, in the same county, was named after another member of the Smollett family - Cecilia Renton, who appears as 'Miss R.' in Humphrey Clinker. There are similar details for names like Akroydon, Saltaire, Ellistown, and Coalville, as well as generous quotations under (e. g.) Cliftonville, Peterlee, and Lisburn.

Mr Room has chosen to locate the names explained in their present-day local-government areas. This is reasonable enough for England and Wales, but Scottish regions are too large for precise identification, and the former county-names would have been preferable, especially as they are used for postal purposes and therefore remain recognisable to readers both in and out of Scotland. Former county-names are used for places in Northern Ireland, even though their status also has been changed by reorganisation. For places in the metropolis, a new term is introduced - 'London proper' - the significance of which is not explained; to many readers it might suggest the former LCC area, but examples (inferred from the method of description outlined on p. xlii) from outside that territory include Redbridge, Mill Hill, and Wood Green.

The dictionary includes a good selection of names of Greater London boroughs and county districts, the histories of some of them being enlivened by brief anecdotes. We are told that 'the Town Clerk hoped that people would take care to pronounce the middle "h" ' in Newham, though evidently his phonetic ukase omitted any reference to the location of the stress. Waltham Forest, we learn, combines parts of the names Walthamstow and Epping Forest, but it is not clear whether the creators of the name, mildly censured by Mr Room for mishandling Walthamstow, were aware of the historic name Waltham Forest 1654 LP, for the Royal Forest of Essex, which 'covered the present forests of Epping and Hainault' (PNEss, p. 1).

Many modern names have a history connected with railway development. The companies supplied and transformed toponyms, brought about some changes of

spelling, and introduced -junction names, often, like some of the seaside names, at some distance from the 'parent' place; Clapham Junction is about as far from Clapham as Angmering-on-Sea is from Angmering, but this railway-created name has been omitted (though Clapham Common is included) and no other names of this class have been found worthy of consideration. Seaside names, however, receive a full treatment in Appendix II, in which no fewer than eighteen '-on-Sea' toponyms are listed and discussed, together with their less numerous counterparts such as Weston-super-Mare. By a strange geographical lapse, Mr Room places Clacton-on-Sea, Frinton-on-Sea, and Bradwell-on-Sea 'all in Kent', though, a few lines above, he describes Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall (Ess) as 'not too far away' from the last-named of the seaside group. Elsewhere, as a result of somewhat confused wording in a definition of wapentake, Southend could be taken to be in north-east England. It must be said that there seem to be few mistakes of this kind, but there is an inexplicable fault in one etymology. On p. ix, Eaton (Socon) is described as 'an old name, commonly found all over the country [and meaning] "east settlement" '.

It is interesting to find that about two dozen names in -ville have been included in the dictionary, though the list is not quite complete. Jemimaville is there, for instance (cross-referenced from, but not to, Poyntzfield), but Barbaraville (Ross-shire) is omitted. The entry on Frithville ought perhaps to have included the form Le Frith 1331, cited in DEPN and undoubtedly relevant to Mr Room's comments on 'the remnants of a submerged forest found here'.

Appendix I, on 'royal' names, deals with those referring to tenure by the king or queen, together with those bearing such additions as Regis or Royal. In this discussion, as in that in Appendix II, some names inevitably come outside the limits of date the author has set for himself in the work as a whole.

Adrian Room deserves our gratitude for putting his diligent research to such good use in the compilation of a readable and convenient dictionary. The abundant information, and the invaluable references, will undoubtedly be drawn on by others aware of the 'embarrassing gap' which he observed and has gone a long way towards closing.

JOHN FIELD

KLAUS FORSTER, A Pronouncing Dictionary of English Place-Names, including standard local and archaic variants, Routledge & Kegan Paul: London, 1981, reprinted with slight correction 1982, xxxvi + 268 pp., typescript, £10.50.

The reprint does not improve the work in any major way. It increases the price by £1. It corrects a few of the more obvious errors of the first version. But much more is needed than this.

The preface describes the author's method and intention and reveals the shortcomings of the work. He writes, 'This dictionary presents a collection of the phonetic forms of about 12,000 different names of English counties, towns, villages, farms, fields, rivers, lakes, mountains, islands, and even street names . . .'. He qualifies this by 'In contrast to most pronouncing dictionaries, not only the standard pronunciation of a place-name is given; . . . the aim set by the author was to collect forms of pronunciation which are now either archaic, obsolescent or even obsolete, or are used by the natives of a particular place or by people living in the neighbourhood of that place'. And he makes a further concession: 'This dictionary does not claim to be complete; neither does it contain all the place-names of England nor does it offer both the standard, local and archaic forms of pronunciation for each name listed. Much work remains to be done for the fieldworker in collecting forms of pronunciation which have never been recorded and which are likely to become extinct soon.' (Reviewer's underlining).

On the subject of sources, the preface says, 'The material has been taken from printed sources published during the past hundred years or so; they include publications on English place-names, dialects, phonology and local history as well as pronouncing dictionaries. The periodical publications of various local historical and other learned societies proved to be valuable sources. . . . At first the intention was to start at around 1900 in order to restrict the dictionary to forms which have been used in the present century. But later on it was decided to widen the time bracket to a little more than a hundred years, which enabled the author to include the glossaries of the English Dialect Society, Hope's glossary of local place-nomenclature and other glossaries published in the second half of the nineteenth century. Yet it should still be possible to say that all the pronunciations recorded in the present dictionary have been used within living memory.'

Although it may be possible to say that all the pronunciations recorded here have been used within living memory, this 'dictionary' does not contain all the pronunciations used within living memory. The book produced to us is a typescript of a compilation of some of the pronunciations of some English place-names; such pronunciations as are recorded in some printed sources for the period since about 1850, transcribed by the editor into the IPA phonetic script. The bibliography is neither exhaustive nor critically selective; it includes some queer things. But the compiler has not ranged into the classics of English provincial literature or local history, e.g. Ben Brierley 'Ab-o'th-Yate' Sketches and other stories, ed. J. Dronsfield, Oldham 1896, 3 vols, or The Cheshire Sheaf, First Series 1878-85, New Series 1895 (one vol.), Third Series (1903- ), Chester, The Chester Observer and formerly The Chester Courant, annual. Probably such regional works as these, or the countless essays in regional dialect which used to grace the best country newspapers, are not readily accessible to the author. So we are deprived of Brierley's Lancashire dialect forms of Salford and the immortal Walmsley Fold; but we are regaled with

such fey teasers as Schröer's defiant [ɑ:kə] for Acre Nf and [æŋ] for Alne (river-name), Hope's spectacular leg-pull [lɑ:niŋ in ðə mɔ:niŋ] for Loughton-en-le-Morthen, Baumann's diversionary and tangential 'Recent Incision' for The New Cut (not a pronunciation anyway).

In the section, pp.ix-x, on phonetic symbols, the editor remarks, 'Great care has been taken in rendering the various phonetic transcriptions used in the sources in the phonetic alphabet of the IPA. This proved particularly difficult in the case of some sources which were inconsistent in the use of phonetic symbols explained in their introductions, and in the case of different interpretations of Standard English vowels. . . . In many other sources, which did not use any approved phonetic alphabet (IPA, Romic, Glossic, etc.), letters or combinations of letters were often ambiguous. . . . Hope's glossary is a notorious example. . . . In some cases it was mere guesswork to find out what sound the author meant. In these cases the original notation is added in a footnote and the reader is invited to check this against my rendering.' (Reviewer's underlining). This supposes the editor is confident in all the other cases, that we will have no doubt he is right. It would have been better practice if he had cited the source's original form in every instance and then added his transcription into IPA. I do not think an editor can be, or ought to be, trusted in such an operation with material like this. Unless he has Joseph Wright's, or Harold Orton's, or Stanley Ellis's, encyclopaedic knowledge of the English spoken dialects and, in addition, biographical information about the reporter's native dialect or the degree of his linguistic sophistication - he cannot be relied upon to know, or even to guess aright, what the relationship may be, nor be expected to avoid simplifying the relationships, between the sound made, the sound perceived, the systems of description, the editor's own perception of the relevant phonetic register. Look how many times Hope and the editor provide a mystery - e.g. Merstham Sr [meistrəm]; what did Hope hear and report?

Another consideration which needs to be taken into account when using sources such as those of this book, is the element of propaganda in them. Some of the nineteenth-century investigators were seeking the preservation and encouragement of a distinct, local, regional variant of English culture and language, against the advance of a standardisation of speech and culture seen as destructive. So their reportage may have bias: it may pretend and exaggerate the viability of a local dialect as part of a defensive propaganda, if not on the part of the reporter, then sometimes on the part of the informer. See p. 10, Ashton: ['æʃtŋ, 'æʃtən], for Ashton under Lyne, La; [eifin] - I'd have expected [eifstŋ, eifstŋ] - 'must have been the dialect of the older local inhabitant, if indeed of anybody at all, even in the egregious Hope's day, 1882.

Because this list of names and pronunciations does not contain the results of the editor's field-work (Milton Keynes, p.162, would surely have given him [keinz] as well), he may still be innocent about the sociological significance, and the social impact, of the various categories of place-name pronunciation. These are identified by him as 'standard', 'local', 'dialect' and 'archaic', with 'obsolescent' as a quality or condition applicable to any category but usually affecting the three latter. He seems reluctant, even in his preface - would it be out of place in a dictionary of place-name pronunciations? - to offer guidance to the reader about the sociological usage of these forms and what circumstances are appropriate to each. I'd be very surprised if a sociological hierarchy of usage were not operating in the field, and ought not to be represented, for such entries as Adel, Alnmouth, Alnwick, Bache, Bridekirk, Darwen; names in which f represents [v]; Thirkleby YE; and others.

The entries are occasionally punctuated by the diacritics of surprise or alarm '[sic:]' and '[!]', e.g. s.nn. Barton Blount, Beadnell, Blakesley, Boltons, Bressingham, etc. - at forms where such simple phenomena as [l/n/r] interchange might render the protest irrelevant. Or perhaps the exclamation comes through from the source rather than from the editor - the layout doesn't make it clear. The converse of this manifestation is the editor's disciplined objective incuriosity about, say, Applehaugh YW [æblda:]; Arbor Low Db [ɑ:tə]; Baldu Co, for which the new edition of The BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names has two pronunciations for the prototheme and two for the deüerotheme; Euxton, the absurd forms reported from J. B. Jackson, The Place-Names of England and Wales (London, 1914).

There are some entries which strike me as badly organised, or in need of augmentation even at this provisional stage; for instance, those for Blackley, Carhampton, Cold Harbour, Farn, Gawsworth, Hughley, Hyde, Islip, Kington, Kirkham, Mossley, Osbaston. The justification for including such entries as the following is not obvious: America Cottages Wt; Brighthelmstone; Drian Gallery; Inditch; Whistle Gray; Wide Irons (although this throws light on a quite special problem in Cheshire place-names, the author's interest is elsewhere). Almeley He appears incompletely as [ :m li].

In the last paragraph of his preface, the author says, 'Aware that such a project is beyond the means of a single onomastician, the author would welcome any suggestion for the improvement of this dictionary, as well as contributions of additional forms and references to sources which have escaped his attention'. This awareness is wisdom after an event; but it might have been acquired in consultation before the undertaking was put in hand. It is very obvious that he is in need of expert help and collaboration. Many entries invite modification and addition, not always of the kind the author is asking for, in order to correct or offset deficiency of material or method.

We have all been invited to cooperate with the author. But what are his plans for this major work which is too big for one man? What sort, and how many, will he recruit?

This book is not yet a real contribution to name-study or linguistic history. When it has been properly worked up and supplemented from original research and field-work, and humanised by an appreciation of the social history of the subject, it would begin to be a good research tool, something more than a print-out compilation. As it stands, regrettably, it is unbalanced, blunt, clumsy, likely to damage the work of the innocent user and even to hurt the inexpert hand. The title should be A Provisional Index of Material for a Pronouncing Dictionary of English Place-Names. As such, pretending less, it would be worth more. The published title should still be upon a filing cabinet or a floppy-disc in the editor's study, not on the cover of a premature publication.

I hope that Klaus Forster will keep up his resolve to attempt the dictionary this book pretends to be. It is a worthy aim, and he has the enterprise and ambition the task will require. I have taken pains to review this unsatisfactory production, out of regard for him and his project.

JOHN McN. DODGSON

G. E. POINTON, ed., BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2nd edn., 1983, xxviii + 274 pp., £6.95.

In the eleven years since the production of the first edition of this work, by Miss G. M. Miller, the BBC Pronunciation Unit has continued to monitor and record the pronunciation of British names. Much new information has come to hand which supplements names already listed in the first edition or requires many new entries. If we could look forward to future decennial revisions like this, the successive editions of this dictionary will be a tool in the hands of the social historian. They will reflect 'Who's in, who's out' and what places were 'the scene' as the decades unfold. For instance, Housego is included, but not Howgego ['haudʒəgou] nor yet Stilgoe; the entry for Althorp Nth has grown under the light of Royal Wedding publicity. A rough estimation shows that the new edition may contain two or three thousand more names than the old one. A number of names listed in the first edition have been removed - presumably they were weeded out because they have not had news-bulletin value lately? Thus, at pp. 216-17, from Sapley to Scrabo, the new edition adds 22 family names (Sarony, Sarstedt, Sava, Savidge, Savigear, Savory, Saxavord, Sayles, Scargill, Scase, Scebarras, Scerri, Scerry, Scharf, Scher, Schild, Schiller, Scholey, Schouvaloff, Schroder, Schulcz-Paull, Sciberras) of which only six are in the 1977 version of Reaney, Dictionary of British Surnames 2nd edn., revised R. M. Wilson; and adds three place-names, Sapley and Sawston C, Scarborough YN, and the two London names, Savile Row and The Savile Club.

One can amuse oneself with speculation about the circumstance or event which brought this set of names in - some may have to do with show-business, coalminers' unions, or the social and sartorial haunts of the members of the Pronunciation Unit. But the first edition at this juncture had some names which the second has omitted: Sauchie, Savoch, Scalby, Scarista (whereabouts is or was this place?), and Scholes. One wonders what got these deleted?

On the other hand, at pp. 1-2, from Aagaard to Ackroyd, nothing of the first edition has been discarded, but ten family-names (only one of them in Reaney) and fourteen place-names have been added. What has prompted interest in the river-name Aan in Grampian? Why has Abington Pigotts been added? Whilst Aarvold can be associated with the bench, Achillini, Aaronovitch, Abley and Ackrill challenge one's acquaintance with the topicalities of a decade. The letter X remains constant to Xavier, Xerri, Xiberras and Xuereb. On the letter Y, both editions ignore Yaxley Hu, Sf, and Yeaveley Db (the origin of the great Henry of Yeaveley (de Yevele) who is (still) listed under Yevele). The new edition adds three family-names beginning with Y (Yallop; Yip; and Younger of Leckie) and eight place-names, four of them Welsh. It discards six place-names, all of them Welsh, which prompts questions of demography, politics, incident, news, linguistic retreat or increased familiarity; why do we no longer need Ynysarwed, Ynysawdre, Ynys-boeth, Ynyscedwyn, Ynyslwyd, Ysclydach? What doesn't happen there any more? Who no longer lives there? Or is your modern BBC announcer that well versed in Welsh (and what about the rest of us)?

The second edition has much the same layout as the first - Introduction pp. xi-xxviii including notes on spellings, titles, county-names, indexing, Welsh names, key to pronunciation (xvi-xxiii), abbreviations, bibliography; Dictionary pp. 1-268; Channel Islands appendix pp. 269-74. It is interesting to note that the new edition preserves the first edition's truly British (i.e. English) apology about the handling of



Welsh names, pp. xiv-xv; a wise precaution against uprising of the volatile and voluble linguistic sensibility of the wild men west of Offa's Dyke. In any future edition of this dictionary, let there be an equally solicitous attempt at an apology to our Gaelic-speaking compatriots for the way we have been handling their much more difficult and subtly modulated nomenclature.

The new edition also reprints the preface to the first, which says 'The myth of BBC English dies hard'. Something like that myth inspires a phrase in the entry 'Nonsuch Palace, Surrey, 'nʌnsʌtʃ, nʌn sutch; nɒnsʌtʃ, nɒn sutch. The first is usual among scholars. Locally, however, at Nonsuch Park, the site of the original Tudor palace, the second is current today.' This reviewer would have hoped that scholars no longer affected a dialect in order to refer to the place, the palace or the name.

Here, as in other contexts, there is a discernible aim, not always quite accurate. It becomes discernible in those entries where a choice does not please, or in certain omissions of one's favourite names. Dodgson: the entry is improved by the reference to the musical side, but still omits the La and We pronunciation ['dɒdʒən]. Higginbotham / -bottom is unaccountably omitted, even though the variant Hickinbotham is promoted to autonomy of form and pronunciation. Compare this slight with the obsequious deference still paid in this edition to that monument of a Victorian class snobbery, the pronunciation [ˌsɪdɪbətəm] for Sidebottom (usually ['sɪdbətəm]) - a pronunciation no more harmful and no less instructive than Smyth or Smythe (or Psmith for that matter) but with much less justification. One wonders why the Ramsbottoms and the Rowbottoms and the Longbottoms were not so squeamish as to [-bətəm]? Or did none of them do well enough for social elevation in Victorian times? Charing: I would have thought the distinction worth preserving between Charing K ['tʃæriŋ] and Charing Cross Mx ['tʃæriŋ]. Loughton-en-le-Morthen is omitted. Davyhulme ought to be ['deɪvɪjum]. Stalmine La ['stɒlmin] ought to be added, for one never knows when something might happen there! Goosnargh La is at least as often pronounced ['guznər] as ['gusnər]

Charing, Davyhulme and Goosnargh well illustrate the awful problems which confront the editor. He may congratulate himself, when regarding the variation between Trafálgar and Trafalgár, that he doesn't need deal with the variant stresses of Himalayas or Popocatpetl. But should not his reader be warned that circumstances may govern the usage of the three pronunciations of Dittisham just as particularly as those for Nonsuch? And is there not, for the BBC editor, always the need to legislate, to give his announcers a ruling, for practical purposes? A name may have three pronunciations, standard, local and dialect; one would expect the BBC announcer or news-reader in London to use the first; regular visitors and long-term residents, and occasionally the local BBC broadcaster the second; natives and local inhabitants of equal status the third. I observe that, under Trottscliffe K, the venerable and respectable spelling-pronunciation ['trɒt(ɪ)sklɪf] has gone. How many people outside Kent would recognise the place-name spelling from the local pronunciation ['trɒzli]? Would it not have been advisable for the BBC to use a compromise ['trɒtsli] or ['trɒtslɪf] which would be recognised and intelligible to listeners who do not connect the spelling with the local pronunciation? Many names, like Dodgson and Trottscliffe present various pronunciations to the broadcaster, and he cannot use them all simultaneously nor be forever saying 'Alias'. Outside the NW counties the hearer of ['dɒdʒən] will 'see' Dodgeon not Dodgson; of ['trɒzli] outside Kent and Surrey, Trosley not Trottscliffe. Such dislocations of spelling and pronunciation do not obtrude

awkwardly in names like Greenwich, Cholmondley, Knaresborough and Deptford, but in less well-known examples they matter. As to Goosnargh and Davyhulme, the use of either pronunciation may offend those who prefer the alternative.

Let not this reviewer teach his 'Auntie' how to suck eggs. This dictionary steers a well-judged and diplomatic course. Its pronunciations are for the most part quite precisely poised on the interface between the oral and the literal traditions; it chooses a pronunciation mutually recognised by those who do not write the name and those who do not read it and even those who have not previously heard it. The Pronunciation Unit are to be congratulated on their success, as to the method and content. Those of us who are from time to time consulted know the care and sensitivity with which they seek to get things right. A good team, well led.

Just one important thing takes the edge off my enjoyment of the second edition, and I hope they will change it in the third. It is the execrable typography. These serif-less faces are quite unfitting for name-spelling and for name-indexes. This dictionary is quite spoiled in appearance from Ilam, p. 125 to Ilsley, p. 126. Illingworth presents an awful prospect, and compare names in Bill-, Hill, Mill-, etc. Had the editor looked at the English Place-Name Society's practice (alas! I note the removal of 'this source from the bibliography!') he would have noted that Baskerville avoids the I, l, l, i confusion. Times Roman is not too bad, but not as good as Baskerville. The first edition of the BBC dictionary got it right. It's nice to have a change sometimes, but why go mad? Is the typography of the second edition the mark of enslavement to golf-balls, daisy-wheels, floppy-discs and print-out minded salesmanship? Is economy of production incompatible with elegant type? It's such a well-made, handy book, it's a pity to spoil it so.

JOHN McN. DODGSON

CHARLES DE BEAUREPAIRE (ed. Dom JEAN LAPORTE *et aliis monachis*), Dictionnaire topographique du département de Seine-Maritime comprenant les noms de lieux, 2 vols. continuously paginated, lx + 1188 pp.; loose map pocketed in Vol. I. Vol. I (A - G), Bibliothèque Nationale: Paris, 1982, no price stated. Vol. II (H - Z), Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques: Paris, 1984, 400F.

For all in any degree concerned with Norman studies the appearance of this dictionnaire topographique must be cause for great rejoicing. It has taken more than a century and a quarter to reach our desks. When in the 1850s the Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques conceived the project of a Dictionnaire topographique de la France, to be compiled département by département, one of the earliest editors recruited was Charles de Beaurepaire, archivist of the then Seine-Inférieure. But, although his work had by 1876 been approved in principle, delay due to illness led to its being overtaken by shifts in standards of presentation, so that a partial draft submitted in 1890 was returned with a request for drastic rearrangement. Even when requirements were modified, Beaurepaire, then over sixty, declined to complete the work. Not until 1957 were new editors sought for it; choice then fell on Dom Jean Laporte, supported by a team of fellow-monks of Saint-Wandrille. Even though comprehensive revision had become the only course possible, Beaurepaire's work remains as the core.

The aim, and consequently also the structure, of a dictionnaire topographique differ from those of an EPNS volume. Readership envisaged seems to consist principally of archivists, historians, editors of cartularies, land-registry clerks, and others needing for practical reasons to identify name-forms with localities. Names are therefore listed in simple alphabetical order, with the places concerned defined by their status (from chef-lieu du département down to ferme, lieu-dit, and so on) within the administrative circumscriptions to which they belong. To supplement these localizations, the Introduction briefly describes successive patterns of territorial demarcation and association, ecclesiastical as well as civil, from Gallo-Roman times on (Celtic tribal names, feudal tenures, administrative and financial organization under the Ancien Régime, the diocese of Rouen and its sub-divisions, and the two-stage creation of the present-day département) and under each category lists in full the places concerned. Lists and classifications are aimed solely at situating localities within these various structures. Broader historical information must be supplied by the reader, or sought elsewhere.

Etymology is likewise not a concern here (for pursuing such questions French toponymists use other sorts of vehicle). On the other hand, early forms enjoy the greatest respect; the controversy that led Beaurepaire to lose heart turned partly on strict chronological order of citation. To enable scholars to refer difficult forms to the appropriate lemmata, there is an index of Latinized, archaic and otherwise aberrant spellings. The full material is there for the etymologist to work on, but, as with historical questions, the dictionnaire deals, as far as possible, only in items of fact unalloyed by speculation, interpretation, or even comment.

Practical uses apart, where alphabetical arrangement may score over the EPNS scheme of presentation is in emphasizing the uncertain boundary between describing and naming, between common noun and toponym. This comes out especially with minor names. Students of Scandinavian influences will see Londe (La) recorded here well

over 40 times, Tot (Le) over 30 times as simplex forms plus several times in composites, and Bec (Le) 15 times as simplex plus 7 composites, and over a dozen instances of the diminutive Becquet (Le). Beaurepaire occurs 9 times, Bailleul a dozen times, Chêne (Le) together with Quesne (Le) a score of times as simplex and over a hundred times in composite forms, while Chesnaie (La), Chesnay (Le), Quesnay (Le), Quesnaye (La) and further variants provide between them over a hundred names. If nothing else, such multiplicity counsels great caution in attribution of the related noms d'origine.

CECILY CLARK

MARY LASSITER, Our Names, Our Selves: the Meaning of Names in Everyday Life, London: William Heinemann Ltd, 1983, xii + 163 pp., £7.95.

Although colloquially (or, a purist might say, in places ungrammatically) written, this was not conceived either as a pot-boiler or as a bedside book. Closely concerned with Englishwomen's present naming-problems, Mary Lassiter found these enmeshed in wider socio- and psycho-onomastic webs; this led her to make a general survey.

The overt feminism is a potential strength. Unlike many name-books, academic and popular alike, this goes beyond mere listing of masculine and feminine forms to seek the social, psychological and anthropological motives underlying choices. The material partly consists of replies to a questionnaire distributed among several hundred respondents, children as well as adults (it is not reproduced, nor are the principles on which respondents were selected ever explained). Given the masculinist bias of much previous work, insisting on parity of the sexes should enhance precision; but, like any other parti-pris, in fact it at times warps the judgment. 'Wolf-names, such as Wulfstan, were', Lassiter asserts, 'popular for boys in Anglo-Saxon times but have not survived the wiping out of the totem animal': anthropological inexactitude apart, the implied male/female contrast is false, because feminine Wulf-names were likewise current.

In the main, however, the method yields interesting results. Sons, it seems, receive more often than do daughters names traditional in the paternal family, conventional names ('common' was not the happiest way to put it), short names, and ones based on surnames; and they are less often given potentially unisex names or foreign-looking ones. Consequently, the masculine English name-stock now current is less than half the size of the feminine one, and is also more stable. One reason suggested for such differentiation is that a daughter, whose baptismal name(s) may be the only permanent one(s) she has, may be felt to need a more individual form than does a son enjoying an inalienable right to his surname. Alternatively, whereas a son is supposed to need a respectable name he can 'make', a daughter may be deemed to need only a decoration. Be that as it may, the sexes reportedly differ also in their reactions: American studies show white male bearers of odd names as disproportionately susceptible to neurosis, whereas black females in like circumstances seem unharmed. The question is raised, but not answered, whether a bisexual name might conduce to homosexuality or transvestism.

Surnaming-customs bear hard on Englishwomen: Mary Lassiter - who retained her own name after marriage, but has modified it as an author - focusses on the 'Catch-22' predicament. Awareness of the bond between name and identity increasingly emphasizes what an affront to personality the conventional practices involve (the reviewer remembers her own silent fury, when aged about ten, at hearing a spinster schoolmistress recommend Cash's Names with 'They'll still be useful after you've left school - until, of course, you change your name'). Problems lie less in defying parents-in-law and hôtel-receptionists than in devising reforms universally acceptable. A Laodicean running of two surnames in parallel arouses the same suspicions as any other alias (especially in bank-clerks, one may add). Wholly rejecting name-change leaves unsolved the question of what to call any children. Mary Lassiter advocates the passing of a father's surname only to his sons, while their sisters take the mother's (at least that would put paid to the laments from parents - mothers irrationally included - of married and prolific daughters but not of sons that 'It's so sad the family has to die out!'):

'If this equality in name were paralleled by an equality in rôle, it wouldn't matter that women were often called by their son's surname at school and in the doctor's waiting room, because men would equally often be there transporting and tending their children, and being addressed by their daughter's surname.'

Over her own daughters' surname she yielded to patriarchal custom.

Broadening the manifesto into a survey proved unwise (even though it did let in joys like the dustbin which was christened Pongo). Odd paragraphs on house-names and on fictional names break the thread to no purpose. The comments on pets' names miss the mark, partly because of the dominant thesis but more because of failure to distinguish between 'formal' and 'calling' names: why cats' names are more fanciful than dogs' is probably not, as here surmised, because the former creatures are conventionally classed as 'feminine' but the latter as 'masculine', but rather because dogs' names are meant for calling them - a pointless endeavour with an unresponsive cat. Comment on Caesar as a (guard-)dog's name ignores the threatening pun involved.

The book displays a wilful rootlessness, as it were a mid-Atlantic stance. Matters of common knowledge are spelt out, laboriously even when inaccurately, as with the misdescription of a 'Battenberg' cake (coated in fact not with 'yellow icing' but with marzipan). 'Britons' and 'British' are used in an unEnglish way, likewise 'the UK' instead of 'this country'; at one point we meet the tautology 'White English'. 'British' name-usage no more exists than does a 'British' accent: Scotland, Wales and Ireland have each their traditional and preferred usages, as also have the various English regions - though few would guess it from what is said here. Concepts of 'foreignness' may be subjective; but, except on commercial grounds, it is - as the materials themselves underline - no more justifiable to half-merge American usages with 'British' ones than it would be so to treat the French and German ones here virtually ignored. A better plan would have been to omit the generalities, concentrate on the indivisibility of name and self, and on that base a feminist critique of at least the main West-European practices (the only non-'British' system in fact used effectively to serve the main thesis is the Icelandic one of universal true patronymics).

Despite a Diploma in Linguistics, Mary Lassiter lacks some essential skills. At home among journals of sociology and psychology, she seems unaware of, or indifferent to, the means of checking historical or etymological detail; nor has the editor she thanks so effusively mended matters. The account of Wulf-names is far from being the only slip of its kind. Non-English languages are uncertainly handled, with French Léonie seemingly implied to mean 'lioness'. A splendidly spurious 'fifteenth-century St Jervois who chronicled a fire which destroyed part of Canterbury Cathedral' is presumably a distorted reflection of the twelfth-century chronicler Gervase. The book's defects thus echo those of one popular survey after another. Its viewpoint and its virtues are emphatically its own - what a pity they end half-sunken in sloppy verbiage and unverified assertions.

CECILY CLARK

DONNCHADH Ó CORRÁIN / FIDELMA MAGUIRE, Gaelic Personal Names, The Academy Press: Dublin, 1981, 181 pp., paperback, IR £7.50.

This is a collection of between nine hundred and one thousand names. The authors do not define either 'personal name' or 'Gaelic', but they seem to have used the terms with some elasticity. For instance, although this is clearly not an Irish dictionary of persons, mythological and historical - witness the absence, to give but one example, of Balor - it does include Cú Chulainn, which could be described as a nickname, while neither Culann (or Caulann), the personal name on which the nickname is based, nor Sétanta, the Cú's original name, is included. It is hard to envisage present-day parents choosing to name an infant Cú Chulainn - even though Cú Chulainn Ó Corráin, for instance, could be said to provide a nice alliterative sequence.

As regards 'Gaelic', the very first name in the collection - Aaron - is indicative of the wide range of material used. In fact the proportion of 'native' to borrowed names in the book is very high, about nine to one. The preponderance of names for males - more than twice as many as those for females - reflects the sources, especially the early ones.

In their introduction the authors do say something about the basis of their choice of names. Having noted that some twelve thousand names are recorded in early Irish sources, they say that thousands of these fell out of fashion at a very early period. They go on to say that 'when English became the dominant language of the country, common English, biblical and classical names frequently replaced native ones', but they do not give even an approximate date for this dominance which, if they are speaking of the country as a whole, could be relatively recent. Their book contains 'Irish names selected from the annals, genealogies, mythology and historical literature of early medieval Ireland', and also 'a number of borrowed names which were once (or still are) well established here, some introduced by early Irish clerics, some by the Anglo-Normans.' In effect this means 'all the most popular native names in use in Gaelic Ireland down to the nineteenth century together with their variant forms and their sometimes odd translations into English', as well as 'rarer and more obscure names' included 'for different reasons: because they were (or are) traditionally attached to particular families, because they are the names of once famous saints, kings or heroes, because many of them are euphonious and may appeal to people for their sound or sense', and the borrowed element.

Concerning the borrowed names the authors have some more to say: 'Because of the sheer abundance of Irish names, borrowed ones have only been sparingly admitted. Recent borrowings, exotic variants and fancy-names have been almost totally excluded in favour of those which have been established here for centuries. Even then, we have had to be highly selective. For example, the vast bulk of the new names brought into this country first by the Normans, and later by the English, belong to the common fund of western European names. Many of these have been omitted because they can be found in any good dictionary of names. However, a large number of those which took firm root here, developed Irish forms or have interesting associations are included.'

When the authors say they have 'omitted' some names they imply that these names had at some stage become part of the corpus of 'Gaelic personal names', but to give as a reason for omitting them that 'they can be found in any good dictionary of

names' is hardly satisfactory. We may well ask for the name of even one such dictionary which gives the 'Gaelic' forms consistently and accurately. Among the 'borrowed' names which I regret not seeing listed are Aindriú (Aindrias), Doimnic, Labhrás, Léan, Maitias, Roibeart and Siomann. Incidentally this entry under PEADAR is surprising: 'A borrowing of the name Peter. Peadar is the modern form, Piaras being the medieval form.' Surely Peadar is the regular reflex of Petor which is attested from Old Irish sources.

As regards their aim in writing this book the authors say: 'Irish names are enjoying an increasing popularity and we have tried to encourage that fashion because we believe that names carry cultural values and have powerful historical associations. Above all we have tried to extend the range of Irish names currently available by drawing on the rich record of the past, much of which remains unpublished or hidden from the general public in scarce or expensive scholarly books. We have also tried to deepen appreciation of Irish names by giving their historical and family associations, the surnames which derive from them and, where possible, their meaning. We have noted which names were borne by Irish saints and the associations and feast-days of these saints.'

The inclusion of derived surnames seems to have been done in a very haphazard way, with no information given under such names as Domnall, Donnchad, Goffraid, Iarlaithe, Lochlainn, Maelsechnaill, Magnus, Niall, Odar (the name of the eponymous ancestor of the second of the joint authors), Oengus, Rónán and Tuathal.

The forms to be found in the various entries, which are arranged in alphabetical order, may be as follows: (1) the early Irish form as headword, (2) modern Irish form or forms, sometimes accompanied by a rough indication of the pronunciation, (3) anglicised forms or non-Irish forms used as equivalents. In relation to pronunciation the authors say: 'If the earlier form of the name is found attractive, we see no good reason why the reader should not pronounce it as he feels fit.' While I can see reasons for such a liberal attitude, I would have expected the authors to be more positive in trying to promote the use of forms which would be reasonably 'correct', and perhaps even to explain how some pronunciations in vogue today are due to lack of knowledge about Middle Irish forms and their modern reflexes rather than to any idea of attractiveness. I might instance /'ete:n/ which, I believe, is based on a spelling Etain found in English translations of tales containing the Middle Irish form Étaín whose regular reflex in Modern Irish is Éadaoin with pronunciation /'e:di:n/.

The 'hints' given on p. 9 as a help to readers in using the pronunciation guides are misleading. Thus we find there:

- (a) is roughly equivalent to English law
- (e) is roughly equivalent to English veil

Correlation with examples suggests that we should read (ā) and (ē). If this assumption is correct then no key word has been given to indicate the value to be given to the authors' short vowel (a). This is likely to lead to confusion, for in some words with a in Irish orthography we find (a) in the guide while in many more we find (o). Examples are Abbán, Alusdar, Barrdub, Fachtna and Flann with (a), but Carthach, Cathal, Lachtnae and many more with (o), while Mac Dara is given as (mok-da-ra).

There is no doubt that this work makes available to readers many names which will be quite unfamiliar to them, including some which seem to be attested in relation

to only one person and others which have been obsolete since the early Middle Ages. The comments in the introduction on the structure of Irish names and their derivation - names taken from colours, from animals and other living things, from offices, from family groups, and so on - should encourage interest in the subject, and the entries in the body of the work are enlivened by an assortment of historical, hagiographical and other information.

I have noticed only one piece of literary text cited in illustration of a name and this contains a surprising error. This is the satirical quatrain quoted (in translation) under the heading ETAN where the line cía lasa fífea Etan 'with whom will Etan sleep' is mistranslated 'Who will sleep with Etan'. There is, I suggest, a nice subtlety in the way the poet put it.

Such criticisms as I have made here do not take away from the fact that this is a book which can be strongly recommended and which is likely to be used by many sorts of reader.

BRIAN Ó CUÍV

Compiled by C. Clark and M. Bateson

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I - current 1984; II - projected

## GENERAL AND RELATED

BRODERICK, G. (University of Hamburg): I - a phonology of Late Spoken Manx.

CLARK, C. (Old Chesterton, Cambridge): I - a chapter on onomastics for the Cambridge History of the English Language, vol. I (to 1066); II - a chapter on onomastics for the Cambridge History of the English Language, vol. II (1066 - 1476).

HARVEY, A. (Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies): I - 'The origins of Celtic orthography' (Cambridge PhD thesis; supervisor P. Sims-Williams).

ROOM, A. (Petersfield, Hants): I - A Dictionary of Coin Names (for Routledge and Kegan Paul).

RUMBLE, A. R. (University of Manchester): I - an edition of the Suffolk section of Domesday Book (for Phillimore Press, Chichester).

## ANTHROPONYMY

AMES, J. (Toronto, Canada): I - collecting 'odd-ball' personal names.

BOURNE, G. (University of Leicester): I - 'Rutland surnames as evidence for family-structure and mobility' (PhD thesis; supervisor R. A. McKinley).

HOWELL, C. (Australian National University): I - collecting toponymic surnames used by non-British (especially German and Slavonic) immigrants into Australia 1848-1903.

LEVITT, G. (University of Leicester): I - 'Medieval surnames of the borough of Leicester' (PhD thesis; supervisor R. A. McKinley).

McKINLEY, R. A., and CAMSELL, M. (University of Leicester): I - The Surnames of Devon (for English Surnames Series).

SCHOOL OF CELTIC STUDIES (Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies): II - an archive of Irish personal names [informant B. O'Cuív].

## TOPONYMY

EVERITT, A. (University of Leicester): I - studies of settlement evolution in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire.

FELLOWS-JENSEN, G. (University of Copenhagen): I - Scandinavian Settlement-Names in East Anglia.

FIELD, J. (Uppingham, Rutland): I - editing a collection, made by schoolchildren during the 1930s, of East Riding field-names; II - collecting Northamptonshire field-names.

FRASER, I. A. (University of Edinburgh): I - pronunciation of Scottish place-names (for Waseda University, Japan).

JOHNSTON, A. (University of Edinburgh): I - 'A study of Norse settlement in Argyll, using place-name material' (PhD thesis; supervisor I. A. Fraser).

KITSON, P. (University of Birmingham): I - a dictionary and gazetteer of the Old English charter-boundary material.

MacDONALD, A. (University College, Cork): II - a survey of pre-twelfth-century Scottish church-sites.

MILLS, A. D. (Queen Mary College): I - a chapter on place-names for a collaborative volume on the language of South-West England.

REDMONDS, G. (Lepton, Huddersfield): I - Looking at the Landscape, a ten-part series for schools (for Kirklees Libraries and Museums).

TRINGHAM, N. J. (VCH Staffordshire, at Stafford): I - a study of Lichfield street-names.

## CONFERENCES, COURSES AND LECTURES

The XVIIth Annual Conference of the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland will take place from March 22nd to March 25th 1985 at Christ's College, Cambridge (not at the University of Nottingham as announced in the last issue of NOMINA). The programme of papers has been organised by Miss Cecily Clark. Speakers will include Dr Gillian Fellows-Jensen, Dr John Insley, Miss Cecily Clark, Mrs Dorothy Owen, Mr Oliver Padel, Dr George Redmonds, Dr Karl Inge Sandred, Dr Tom Schmidt, and Mr Robert Thomson.

The Viking Conference will be held at the University of Oslo, August 28th to September 3rd 1985.

Domesday Settlement in the North and West of England: this conference will take place from January 31st to February 2nd 1986 at the University of Manchester. For details write to Dr N. J. Higham, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Manchester.

Flurnamensymposion, Giessen. Dr John Insley reports:

From October 1st to October 4th, a conference on field names, organised by the Arbeitskreis für Namenforschung and chaired by Professor Rudolf Schützeichel of the University of Munster, was held at the University of Giessen. It was attended by around a hundred scholars, mostly from the German-speaking world. The papers given at the conference will be published in the Beihefte series of the Beiträge zur Namenforschung. The study of English nomenclature was represented at the conference by Professor Klaus Dietz and Dr John Insley of the Free University, Berlin, and by Dr Klaus Forster of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. Papers were given by Dr Insley about field names and the Scandinavian settlement of eastern England and by Dr Forster about the study of English field names in general.

Courses, Day-Schools, and Lectures

University College, Galway, Department of Geography: 'Tús na hÁitainmníochta' ('Introduction to Toponymy'), a new course instituted 1984-5 for First Arts Honours students of Geography, under the direction of Professor B. S. Mac Aodha.

University College of North Wales, Bangor, and the Clwyd Place-Name Council have promoted a day-school for the Clwyd place-name survey teams at Hawarden Record Office, to take place in the Spring of 1985 under the direction of Dr Hywel Wyn Owen.

University of Bristol, Department of Extra-Mural Studies has arranged the following courses: Mr M. D. Costen, 'Place-names and the early history of Somerset and Avon', ten weekly meetings beginning September 27th 1984; Dr A. B. Cottle, 'Names', five weekly meetings beginning October 3rd 1984.

Field Name Workshops: during 1984 Mr John Field organised a series of field name workshops at Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester, and at the Oxfordshire

Museum, Woodstock (both in collaboration with Dr Margaret Gelling); at the University of Bristol; and at University College London (in collaboration with Mr John Dodgson).

The Institute of Irish Studies and the Ulster Place-Name Society sponsored two public lectures at the Queen's University, Belfast, in 1984: Dr Kenneth Nicholls (Department of History, University College, Cork), spoke on 'Anglo-Norman elements in Irish place-names' (April 30th); and Mr R. B. Warner (Department of Antiquities, Ulster Museum) spoke on 'Archaeology and the identification of sites for the toponymist' (November 29th).

The Biennial Earl Lecture, University of Keele was given on November 2nd 1983 by Dr Margaret Gelling on the topic 'Some thoughts on Staffordshire place-names'.

Dr Joseph Crowley (Auburn University, Montgomery, U.S.A.) gave a paper entitled 'The use of name evidence for the study of Old English dialects' at the 19th International Congress on Medieval Studies at the Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 10th-13th 1984; reported in Old English Newsletter 17 (no. 2, Spring, 1984) A-46.

Mr John Field gave a paper on 'Transferred place-names used as field names' at the 15th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences held at Leipzig, August 13th-17th 1984; and a paper entitled 'The significance of field names' at the University Centre, Northampton, on October 19th 1984.

## ORGANISATIONS, SOCIETIES, AND JOURNALS

The Clwyd Place-Name Council has been established with Vice-Presidents Professor Kenneth Cameron, Professor D. Ellis Evans, Dr Margaret Gelling, and Mrs Ethyn Melville Richards. The Chairman of the Advisory Board is Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones and the Director of the Survey and General Editor of publications is Dr Hywel Wyn Owen.

Norsk namnelag (The Norwegian Society for Name Studies) was established in 1983 under the chairmanship of Professor Reidal Djupedal of the University of Trondheim. The first volume of its periodical Namn og nemne has now appeared (Autumn 1984) edited by Ole Jørgen Johannessen and Oddvar Nes of the Nordic Institute, University of Bergen. The Society also publishes a bulletin, Nytt om namn, edited by Botolv Helleland of the Institute of Name Studies, University of Oslo.

Bulletin of the Ulster Place-Name Society (New Series). Following the sudden death of Mrs Deirdre Flanagan, Mr Laurence Flanagan has taken over the editorship of the journal. The forthcoming issue is a double volume, 4-5, for 1982-4.

Nouvelle revue d'onomastique, noticed in NOMINA VII, p. 6, can be obtained from La société française d'onomastique, 87, rue Vieille-du-Temple, 75003 Paris, France; price 60 fr.

## PERSONALIA

Professor Erik Tengstrand. Dr Karl Inge Sandred writes:

On September 3rd 1984, Professor Emeritus Erik Tengstrand died aged 86. He was a founder member of Ortnamnssällskapet i Uppsala, one of its first Honorary Secretaries, and Editor of the yearbook Ortnamnssällskapets i Uppsala årsskrift, 1939-1942.

Professor H. T. J. Miedema. Drs R. H. Bremmer Jr writes:

On September 1st 1984, Professor Dr. H. T. J. Miedema retired from his Personal Chair in Frisian Language and Literature at the University of Utrecht, a post he had held since 1966. His farewell lecture, delivered in St Martin's Church, Bolsward (Friesland), dealt with toponyms and anthroponyms in the Bolsward-area before c. 1550. Professor Miedema's career is characterised especially by his numerous publications on (Old) Frisian onomastics and dialects and, through the very nature of the subject, he has contributed much to our insight into North Sea Germanic. (See also E. G. A. Galama, "Libben en wurk fan prof. dr. H. T. J. Miedema," Miscellanea Friscia, pp. 1-10.)

Honours, Appointments, and Awards in 1984

Dr George Broderick has been awarded the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung stipendiat to run from April 1st 1984 for up to two years.

Dr Alexander R. Rumble of the Department of Palaeography, University of Manchester, has been appointed temporary lecturer in Palaeography and Diplomatic in the Department of History, University of Liverpool, for the session 1984-5.

Dr Karl Inge Sandred of Uppsala University has been elected member of the Royal Swedish Gustav Adolf Academy.

## CORRIGENDA TO NOMINA VII

p.9 sub Benskin, Michael: for (p) read (p).

p.11 for Poynton read Pointon.

p.12 sub Dumas, F.: for C. N. L. Brooks read C. N. L. Brooke.

p.19, l.2: for Thams read Thames.

## THE NEWS SERVICE

To achieve our aim of keeping readers of NOMINA informed of developments in onomastic research relating to Great Britain and Ireland, we rely to a considerable extent on voluntary contributions of news, some of which are inevitably incomplete at the time of going to press. If there are any notable errors or omissions the Editor would be pleased to hear. Our gratitude

extends particularly to Miss Cecily Clark who has taken over the task of compiling the annual bibliography with the assistance of Mr Mark Bateson. We are also much indebted to all who have sent in personal information about research, publications, and other notabilia for inclusion in this issue, and especially to Prof. Carl T. Berkhout, Drs Rolf H. Bremmer Jr, Dr Richard Coates, Dr Margaret Faull, Mr Laurence N. W. Flanagan, Dr John Insley, Prof. Brian Ó Cuív, Mr Tomos Roberts, Dr Karl Inge Sandred, Miss Jennifer Scherr, Dr Tom Schmidt, Dr Patrick Sims-Williams, and Dr N. J. Tringham, for supplementing the editorial gatherings.

PMcC.

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J. McN. Dodgson, Department of English, University College London.  
Peter McClure, Department of English, University of Hull.  
A. D. Mills, Department of English, Queen Mary College London.  
Alexander Rumble, Department of Palaeography, University of Manchester.

#### THE COUNCIL FOR NAME STUDIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Chairman: R. L. Thomson.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: I. A. Fraser, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

The Council concerns itself with the advancement, promotion, and support of research into the place-names and personal names of Great Britain and Ireland and related regions in respect of (i) the collection, documentation, and interpretation of such names, (ii) the publication of the material and the results of such research, (iii) the exchange of information between the various regions. Membership consists of representatives from relevant British and Irish organisations and a number of individual scholars elected by Council and usually domiciled in one of the relevant countries.

Members: Dr. G. Broderick, Professor K. Cameron, Miss C. Clark, Dr. B. Cox, J. McN. Dodgson, Professor D. Ellis Evans, Professor A. Everitt, J. Field, I. A. Fraser, Dr. M. L. Faull, P. G. M. Geelan, Dr. M. Gelling, Dr. D. Hooke, Dr. J. Insley, Professor K. Jackson, Dr. G. Fellows-Jensen, Professor B. Lewis Jones, P. C. McClure, R. A. McKinley, Professor J. MacQueen, A. D. Mills, A. MacDonald, Professor W. F. H. Nicolaisen, Dr. J. P. Oakden, B. Ó Cíobháin, Professor C. Ó Cleirigh, Professor B. Ó Cuív, Professor T. Ó Máille, The Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, Professor P. Ó Riain, Dr. H. W. Owen, O. J. Padel, Dr. G. Redmonds, Professor A. L. F. Rivet, T. Roberts, Dr. A. R. Rumble, Dr. V. J. Smart, Professor C. C. Smith, Mrs. J. Stevens, R. L. Thomson, V. E. Watts, Professor J. E. Caerwyn Williams.