

THORSTEN ANDERSSON, Västsverige för tusen år sedan. Gammal territoriell indelning i ortnamnsbelysning, Kulturhistorisk Rapport 15, Länsstyrelsen i Göteborgs och Bohus Län, 1984, 35 pp. + 6 pp. maps.

Thorsten Andersson has devoted much energy in the course of the last twenty years to the study of the administrative divisions of Sweden. He has drawn an important distinction between primary härad-names (names coined to denote artificial divisions of territory) and secondary härad-names (old names for natural districts which became härads when the division of the country into such units took place). Both this distinction and his suggestion that the härad-institution originated in Denmark and spread northwards from there to southern Sweden have been generally accepted. Danish scholars, however, have not been convinced by his arguments that the development of the herred-institution in Denmark was completed at a very early date, possibly even before the beginning of the Viking period, or that there occur in early Danish sources herred-names that do not end in -herred (cf. Andersson's contributions to Namn och Bygd LXX (1982), 46-76, and LXXII (1984), 90-100, and Vibeke Dalberg and John Kousgård Sørensen's contribution to Namn och Bygd LXXII (1984), 76-89).

In the publication under review Thorsten Andersson turns his attention to western Sweden, an area which is particularly interesting from an administrative point of view because until 1658 it was divided between Denmark (Halland), Norway (Bohuslän) and Sweden (Västergötland). In Halland Andersson finds five primary härad-names in the comparatively flat land to the south, while in the north three old natural districts have been incorporated into the härad-system and Andersson argues that for a while at least these districts kept their old name-forms without the addition of -härad. Of the thirty-eight härads in Västergötland, twenty-one have names which have härad as a component from the earliest records on and which presumably reflect artificial territorial divisions, while there are seventeen härads which bear old district names.

There is some doubt as to whether there ever was an old division into härads in Bohuslän. In the medieval sources the territorial divisions are referred to as skipreiður but this division into skipreiður is generally thought not to date from before the end of the twelfth century. A detailed examination of the names of the territorial divisions in Bohuslän leads Andersson to the conclusion that the southern part of the province belongs to the Danish-South Swedish area, where there was an ancient division into härads, while the situation in northern Bohuslän, the old Ranríki, is not clear and needs to be examined in the context of the whole tangle of problems associated with the territorial divisions of Norway. Thorsten Andersson concludes by urging his Norwegian colleagues to begin to unravel the skein by determining whether or not any of the recorded Norwegian names in -herað actually denote administrative districts.

GILLIAN FELLOWS-JENSEN

MARTIN G. WELCH, Early Anglo-Saxon Sussex (2 vols.), British Archaeological Reports (British series) 112 (i) and (ii), Oxford, 1983, xii + 321 and 332 pp., £27.00.

This very large work is a development of the author's 1979 Oxford doctoral dissertation, and has been over ten years in the making. It is an attempt to present what is known about the early history of Sussex (defined as 'before 800 AD'), using evidence from archaeology, place-names, historical sources and diplomatic, in a wider context afforded by geology and historical geography. It is of great credit to the author that he has even embarked on such a synthesis, especially since he moves comprehensively but cautiously in each area.

Much of volume (i) is devoted to amassing archaeological evidence to show that the earliest known Saxon settlements in Sussex are concentrated between the rivers Ouse and Cuckmere, with an outlying, probably earlier, settlement at Highdown in Ferring. The present reviewer is not competent to judge the archaeological content in detail or to criticize the methodology and assumptions of archaeology, but finds it hard to see how anyone could begin to explain away the convergence of conclusions based on such a wide variety of different criteria, largely in relation to the artefacts (mainly gravegoods). For the place-name scholar, the truth of Welch's contention would have the following importance: it cannot be reconciled with the standard hypothesis of Mawer and Stenton (1929) that Sussex was settled in a broadly west-to-east direction, specifically from the Selsey region outwards. This dilemma has repercussions for the identification of the places mentioned in annals 477, 485 and 491 of the Chronicle (A and E texts). Welch discusses these matters in Chapter 11, arguing that the identification of Cymenesora as a western place depends on the authenticity of a diploma the relevant part of which has long been thought to be an interpolation (Chaplais 1969: 316; BCS 64, S 232). In fact the place-name case for initial settlement in the west is very thin indeed and beset with all sorts of uncertainties. Instead, Welch proposes the rejection of BCS 64 and fits the Chronicle account to a theory of eastern settlement which squares better with his archaeological data. The resulting thesis is very persuasive indeed on the mass of available evidence (and has been taken up and elaborated with excessive enthusiasm by e.g. Cunliffe 1973: 132-9). Indeed, earlier acquaintance with Welch's views, promulgated in 1971, led me to show that such Sussex place-names as might reasonably be thought to contain Latin or British elements also show an interesting relationship with the Ouse-Cuckmere downland area, implying Saxon contact with a functioning Romano-British economy (Coates 1983). I am therefore convinced that Welch's theory is the one which fits best the pile of difficult data which we have.

My review is directed, as dictated by its relevance to this journal and the limits of my competence, to Chapters 10 and 11, where the place-name and historical evidence is discussed. Welch does not shrink from tackling the question of the supposed chronology of place-name elements, and comes very properly to the sceptical conclusion that the Sussex evidence does not permit us to point to any one name-type as being primordial. He weighs carefully the familiar work on this matter by Dodgson, Cox, Kirk and others; but no clear pattern of association emerges between fifth and early sixth century cemeteries and the distribution of particular elements. He justly observes that from the point of view of human geography one would not necessarily know how to interpret such a correlation even if one could be demonstrated; for example, because mere geographical distance says nothing about territorial relationships between nuclear settlements and burial-sites (cf. also Arnold 1977). Place-name scholars are castigated for naively equating distance with

significant relationship. Welch goes through the theories bearing on settlement in their several ways with considerable care, following a line likely to be acceptable to the most cautious modern scholars on such prickly matters as the relation between the later Rape of Hastings and Kent, the hām/hamm distinction (Dodgson 1973) and Piroth's 'they came with their place-names' hypothesis (Piroth 1979). There is no wild hypothesizing here and room for no more than a little nit-picking by the reviewer. Can OE tryndel properly be called a habitative element (p.242)? Should we still believe that -ingas names have to commemorate 'the founder of the folk or the founder of the folk's settlement' (ibid.), especially given that Welch knows the evidence for the occurrence of renaming in OE times (p.229)? But these are minor blemishes.

Welch's historical reinterpretation referred to above is broadly satisfying, but he does his case no good with a rhetorical flourish (p.256) about 'a Saxon warband beaching its boats at Selsey and then fighting its way overland for some fifty miles . . . in order to storm Pevensey'. Firstly, the Chronicle offers no evidence at all about any of Ælle's strategic intentions and, secondly, to get to Pevensey Ælle's rate of progress need only have been a stately 3.57 miles per year; and a week was a long time even in Saxon politics, no doubt. Mearcresdesburna (s.a.485) he interprets as referring either to the Ouse or the Cuckmere (p.257), but regrettably does not consider whether burna in this area is really likely to have denoted a major estuary (cf. Gelling 1984: 16-20). It surely cannot have been appropriate to the great tidal marshes of the lower course of either of these rivers in Roman times, especially not the Ouse, marshy far inland, indeed beyond the main block of the Downs, at that period. The only significant stream in downland central Sussex in historic times has been the Lewes Winterbourne - caveat archaeologus! Suffice it to say that the question of the identification of the Chronicle place-names is still an open one but, in general, place-name scholars will find little to quibble with in Welch's careful use of the historiographical and charter evidence.

Welch has produced a lucid account of a well-substantiated settlement theory and reviewed the conflicting demands of different categories of evidence well. He convinces us that, here, place-name evidence must take a back seat in the task of elucidating the primary settlement chronology, in the face of largely consistent archaeological data. However, he has not been afraid to tackle us on our own ground and test our favourite hypotheses, to destruction if necessary.

The presentation of these two volumes is also pretty good. They are photocopied from a good quality typescript, and the plans and drawings, especially those of the artefacts in Appendix 2, Volume (ii), are excellent. There are relatively few misprints.

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RICHARD COATES

MARGARET FAULL (ed.), *Studies in Late Anglo-Saxon Settlement*, Oxford University Department for External Studies, 1984, vii + 207 pp., £12 (inc. p&p).

Margaret Faull has gathered together fourteen papers on late Anglo-Saxon sites and settlement patterns in the first of an occasional series of publications by the Department of External Studies at Oxford. The genesis of some contributions was a conference held in 1981; others have been added to supplement them. The essays cover an admirably wide geographical spread, from Hampshire to the Tweed basin, and range from detailed reports on specific sites (Carolyn Heighway on Gloucester, John Manley on Rhuddlan) to county-wide surveys of the evidence of many centuries (Deirdre O'Sullivan on Cumbria). In the face of such diversity, the coherence of the papers as a single volume is by no means obvious. General themes do emerge, but, with no editor's introduction, no index and no cross-referencing from one paper to another, they are hard to find. Nor, despite its title, does the collection have any very firm chronological coherence. Warwick Rodwell's fascinating discussion of 'Churches in the landscape: aspects of topography and planning' is largely devoted to aspects of the familiar problem of continuity from Roman to Anglo-Saxon sites, and though his remarks on Anglo-Saxon ecclesiastical complexes raise many liturgical questions, his comments on topography are not taken up in other discussions of settlement patterns in this book. S.Loscoe-Bradley and H.M.Wheeler report on Anglo-Saxon settlement in the Trent valley: yet, confining themselves almost entirely to excavated sites, they discuss, by their own admission, only pre-Viking settlement. More importantly, several contributions from the north of England and the Borders raise the question as to whether the 'late Anglo-Saxon' period is a sensible chronological framework to be using at all. Deirdre O'Sullivan and Rachel Newman both on Cumbria, Ian Smith on the Tweed valley and D.Austin on Co.Durham are largely or entirely deprived of that unreliable godsend, Domesday Book. They lack too a supply of Anglo-Saxon charters, an even roughly-datable Anglo-Saxon pottery sequence or a repertory of excavated sites. In southern Scotland and the uplands of Cumbria, where Smith and Newman both point out that the criteria for distinguishing pre-Roman Iron Age, Romano-British or post-Roman sites stand in need of clarification, and where no site datable to between the Roman period and the Norman Conquest has been excavated, study of the 'late Anglo-Saxon' period is as yet an unsuitable refinement. Perforce, these northern contributions discuss sites ranging from the pre-Roman through to the late medieval, and so the collection of papers remains, in the words of the final contributor, D.Austin, 'a rag-bag of individual perceptions' (p.197).

Yet Austin has also identified the value of this book as being 'a retreat from facile certainties'. Some facile certainties are indeed questioned time and again: the impossibility of mapping with precision or meaning much of the information in Domesday Book is a theme which emerges with particular insistence. Other facile certainties die harder. In particular, David Roffe's discussion of pre-Norman estates and parish boundaries in Lincolnshire would have been more lucid had he been less reluctant to challenge common assumptions about the relationship of parochial boundaries to late Anglo-Saxon estate boundaries, and his thesis is damaged by Paul Everson's discussion of the only genuine Anglo-Saxon boundary clause from Lincolnshire, that for the estate of *aet Bearuwe* in Lindsey (Sawyer 782), and also by some cogent evidence from Northamptonshire adduced by Graham Cadman and Glenn Foard (p.90). Multiple estates too are sometimes accepted rather readily as a fact of Anglo-Saxon life. Only Austin allows himself to put some critical questions to what is only a working hypothesis. The notion of a multiple estate can be of value as a description of a complex of social,

tenurial, fiscal and judicial forms of lordship under certain economic conditions, but to let it slip into a form of spatial analysis of settlement is fraught with difficulty. Ian Smith's analysis of the Manor valley, south-west of Peebles, shows the pitfalls of this.

Nevertheless, models of multiple estates have their uses, for almost every contributor has been able to respect Cadman and Foard's plea to get away from thinking about settlement patterns in an 'administrative vacuum'. Indeed, hierarchies of administrative centres are put forward as frameworks for helping explain middle and late Saxon urbanisation, by Heighway for Gloucester and by J.H.Williams generalising from his work at Northampton. Instead, the late Anglo-Saxon settlements discussed here tend to float in an economic vacuum. Michael Hughes speculates that a thriving meat trade supplying middle and late Saxon Southampton may explain the large amounts of meadow land attached to some south Hampshire estates in Domesday Book (p.68); Margaret Faull in her particularly lucid analysis of late Saxon Yorkshire speculates on the network of local markets which must have sustained and fed York itself (pp.136-7); Austin reports on pollen analysis from two Co.Durham sites, and also suggests that in the estate structure revealed by Boldon Book distant echoes of an Anglo-Saxon transhumant economy may be discernible (p.204). Loscoe-Bradley and Wheeler use the remains of a hurdle from an Anglo-Saxon fish-weir to speculate on woodland management (p.113). But there is little else.

It is both the strength and the weakness of this volume that its subject is germane to archaeologists, historians, historical geographers and onomasts alike, and almost every contributor takes an interdisciplinary approach to his or her theme. In the case of Cadman and Foard's paper, with the deceptively modest title of 'Raunds: manorial and village origins' this is outstandingly successful. But, since none of the contributors is first and foremost a place-name expert, it is perhaps not surprising that onomastic discussions are the least substantial part of the book. Only two short papers have place-name problems as their focus. John Manley reports on archaeological investigations which tend to confirm Wainwright's suggested identification of Edward the Elder's *burh* of *Cledemutha* with Rhuddlan. Everson discusses the *aet Bearuwe* boundary clause but is particularly concerned with the history of the estate, and omits any detailed discussion of the boundary landmarks, essential though they are to his argument. Two authors have glossed over toponymic problems to their own especial detriment. Hughes (pp.66-7) need not have so brusquely dismissed the two dozen Hampshire names in *-hām* or *-hamm* in Anglo-Saxon boundary clauses had he noted Margaret Gelling's discussion of the particular significance of the *-hamms* on the Hampshire downs (*Namn och Bygd* XLVIII (1960), pp.151-2). Ian Smith has fought shy of discussing *-tūn* names in the Tweed basin, having heeded Nicholaisen's comments on the difficulty of dating them. His distribution maps of Anglian place-names simply omit all *-tūns* (p.184). It is thus unclear how complete a picture of Anglo-Saxon settlement names in this area is presented. With his expressed concern with tracing a hierarchy of settlement sites, it is a shame that he has not tried to apply the criteria for dating *-tūn* names that Nicholaisen offers, the more so in view of J.Campbell's suggestion that an early and important meaning of *tūn* was 'royal vill' ('Bede's words for places', *Names, Words and Graves: early medieval settlement*, ed. P.H.Sawyer (Leeds, 1979), pp.48-50).

Despite the archaeological slant of most of the contributions, there is nevertheless much here of value to students of toponymy. Two, related, problems are addressed by several contributors: the widely observable tendency for habitation sites to shift, and whether and how names given in administrative records can be attached to specific, pin-pointed locations. In Hampshire and Northamptonshire respectively, Hughes and then Cadman and Foard demonstrate

clearly the abandonment of early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites, and the subsequent growth of middle and late Saxon villages on new sites, or around only a small proportion of early habitation sites. The 'drastic implications' for knowledge of early Saxon settlement names are spelt out by Cadman and Foard (p.91). Margaret Faull pushes the problem of the relationship of name and site much further. She explores, *inter alia*, the relation between the name of a vill as an economic unit and the names of its constituent habitation sites. In the face of evidence for Yorkshire vills deriving their name from a topographical feature, of evidence for a vill giving its name to one of its constituent settlement sites, and of evidence for the subdivision of vills and the regrouping of habitation sites into different units of exploitation, she raises the 'awful spectre' (p.140) that the feature which gave its name to a vill might end up in an adjacent vill of a different name. It is in elucidating the relationship between habitation site, unit of exploitation and patterns of name-giving that archaeologists, historians and place-name scholars are most at each others' mercy.

In her preface, Margaret Faull hopes that this book will act as 'a spur to research along new paths'. It is certainly welcome to be reminded that there is much more to late Anglo-Saxon settlement than the growth of towns or the vexed nature of Scandinavian settlement. It is also good to be reminded that Anglo-Saxon settlement constitutes a brief episode in a long, dynamic process. These essays rather show how much dead wood remains to be cleared from existing paths, and how much digging is still needed before their course will be ascertained.

Oxford University Department for External Studies are to be congratulated on achieving a high standard of presentation for a reasonable price in this new venture. The large format of the many diagrams and maps is particularly welcome, though it is a shame that Roffe's two complicated maps (pp.119, 121) lack caption or scale and remain hard to decipher. There are a few obvious corrections to note: for 'Welbourne' (p.118) read 'Welbourn'; for 'Coutance' (p.90 ff) read 'Coutances'. The radio-carbon date for Kirk Hill, Berwickshire (p.116) is misprinted. Roffe implies that Lincolnshire Domesday lists 245 *Eigenkirchen*, but the churches are not so specified. The submission to Athelstan at Eamont Bridge mentioned by Newman (p.157) is entered in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, MS.D, s.a.926, but the date is generally corrected to 927. But these are minor laments: it is only the lack of an *index locorum* which is especially regrettable.

JULIA SMITH

RICHARD COATES, *The Linguistic History of Early Sussex: The Place-Name Evidence*, Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Sussex, Occasional Paper No. 20, 1983, 49 pp., £1.00.

Since the two EPNS volumes on Sussex were published as long ago as 1929-30, there is obviously a good deal of useful updating to be done, and this paper, in spite of its modest size, will be indispensable for all researchers interested in the settlement history, archaeology and place-names of this county. It is a pity though, that the all-important subtitle has been omitted from the front cover, since this may mislead the would-be purchaser.

The first of the four sections, on the names of British and Latin origin and on the names of pre-Saxon sites in Sussex, relates closely to the second (shorter) section, which examines the distribution of those names and elements in relation to the areas in which, according to Dr Martin Welch, the initial South Saxon settlement took place. The list of names and elements seems comprehensive, their treatment is brief but on the whole judicious, taking careful account of work done since 1930. However some of the necessary caution expressed in discussing *stræt* names, that they may not always indicate a Romano-British connection, could perhaps also have been extended to the discussion of *port* and *comp/camp*. Further information about the four *comp* names not in PNSx would have been desirable (though two instances in PNSx 241 seem not to have been included). The examples given under *brocc* and *torr* needed the qualification expressed under *cumb* and *cnocc*, for they are all names (apart from Tarring) first recorded in the thirteenth century and may well be relatively late coinings using the borrowed words. The refutation in PNDb 710 of how *torr* came to Derbyshire needed to be noted, but *torr* as the first element of Tarring PNSx 339 looks a good possibility. Some of the 'Celtic personal names' seem so unlikely as to be hardly worth mentioning (like the *Doccā* discussed in connection with a boundary mark *duhan lea* which in any case appears as *dunham lea* in a parallel charter, PNSx 241). The useful map inside the front cover illustrating Romano-British survival seems almost an afterthought, since it is not referred to in the text and can easily be overlooked.

The third section deals with some Sussex *-ing* names that Coates maintains are survivals of the OE dative plural *-ingum*, reduced to *-inge* in ME. What he says about Angmering and the other five names adduced seems fair enough as far as it goes, but he needed to make much greater allowance for the possibility of *alternation* of singular and plural forms in all the names discussed, whether or not *-s* forms make an appearance (Dodgson 1967b [*Beiträge zur Namenforschung* N.S. II, 325 ff] should have been consulted and cited).

Perhaps the most important section, because surely the most useful to those for whom the paper is intended, is the fourth, the 'bibliography of place-name studies, especially in relation to Sussex', and its preceding commentary. The bibliography itself seems full and accurate, taking in all the obvious works but including many others that are less well-known or mainly of local or antiquarian interest. The commentary takes the form of an extended essay on place-name studies; under some useful subheadings, it provides an instructive guide to what has been done already and indicates the main current trends. The paragraph subheaded 'The basic tools' rightly emphasizes DEPN and Smith's *Elements*, though it seems rather an imbalance to say that DEPN is 'indispensable' when *Elements* is rather more casually dismissed as a product of the mid-1950s: surely both books are indispensable until they have been revised, just as both have their limitations reflecting

the time at which they were written. Under 'Works on Sussex names', the importance of the EPNS volumes on Sussex is duly acknowledged ('still the key to all Sussex place-name studies'), but their limitations should perhaps have been more fully explained, in terms particularly of the coverage of minor and field names, and of the many printed and unprinted sources not fully represented. The need for a new survey of the county might have been spelt out more fully than in the rather reticent statements that a survey is 'ongoing' (13) and 'underway' (32).

For such a small book, there are rather a lot of minor typing errors. Some abbreviations, employed but not listed in the key, seem unnecessary (ctrst. 30) or may be puzzling (f.c. 39); roads labelled M15 may sound like motorways until we realize that M = Margary, and even BCS and PNSx may baffle the uninitiated.

A. D. MILLS

DAVID N. DUMVILLE (ed.), The Historia Brittonum, vol.3, The 'Vatican' Recension, Cambridge: D.S. Brewer Ltd., 1985, xx + 122 pp., £22.50.

The Historia Brittonum is a pseudo-history written in Wales in A.D. 829-30; it gives an account of the settlement and early history of Britain, starting with the eponymous Brutus, great-grandson of Aeneas. It was formerly attributed to one 'Nennius', but that has now been shown to be false, and the author is unknown. Part of the interest of the text is as the earliest witness to the legend of Arthur, and as a precursor (and source) of Geoffrey of Monmouth's influential Historia Regum Britanniae; but it is also of intrinsic interest as showing the state of learning in Wales at the time when it was composed. It has never been available in a satisfactory text, for previous editions have always tried to conflate different versions — an impossible task, since they vary so much.

The present edition, of which this is the first volume to appear, goes to the other extreme, and will be in ten volumes, seven of them being editions of the different recensions, one (8) a reconstructed original text, one (9) of general commentary, and one (10) of linguistic and onomastic commentary. Chapter numbers will vary from version to version, according to the capitulation of the manuscripts involved. (A concordance of the different versions is provided.) All this is necessary in order to preserve the sanity of readers from the complexities of a conflated edition. Everyone will agree that this is the correct treatment; but it remains a question whether the ten-volume set was necessary: in this recension (admittedly short) the text itself, run together, occupies barely 20 pages. (The apparatus is very wastefully set out.) A single volume, giving all recensions consecutively with their individual apparatus, would have been large and expensive, but perhaps more manageable. However, that is a matter of personal, and publishing, judgment; for the meantime those who do not plan to buy the whole edition will wait for volume 8. It is anyway certain that in fifty or a hundred years' time the overall treatment will seem entirely right, and the complete set, sitting proudly on library shelves (and, one hopes, on a few others) will stand as a fine and worthy monument to its editor's learning, industry and vision.

However, since that is so, one very important factor in the production must be tidied up. The volume comes with a scruffy errata-slip, not bound in, relating predominantly to the apparatus, a fair proportion to the Old English letters found in some names in the recension and not inserted into the gaps left for them in the printed text. (Some of the textual history of this recension depends on the inability of French copyists to cope with the letter wynn, so it is ironic that the printer has also failed to do so: even on the errata-slip they are capitals throughout, including in the middle of words.) Such errors savour of publisher's haste, not editorial carelessness, and confidence in the editor points the same way. In other words, fifteen or more years of the highest scholarship have apparently been jeopardised by a publisher anxious to save a week or two over a further set of proofs. The book, and the editor, deserve better than this. In an edition of which the main justification is the definitive nature of text and apparatus it is especially unfortunate.

Few people, this reviewer not among them, are in a position to comment on the text and apparatus themselves; and in any case one would need the other volumes in order to evaluate some of the judgments made. But all who are acquainted with the editor's preliminary work already in print will have full confidence in those aspects of the edition. One query, though: the final section, chapter 28 on St Patrick, is virtually restricted, in this

recension, to one of the manuscripts. It is found in other recensions, but in a different place in the text. It is therefore open to question whether it was originally part of this recension, as is assumed here (p.4), or was re-inserted into the one manuscript (from a different recension, if so). No doubt the editor has good reasons for his assumption, but they are not made clear; a short discussion would have removed all doubt.

The introduction contains a useful discursus on learning in England during King Edmund's reign (939-46), the milieu which produced this version of the original text. There is also a useful discussion (pp.50-2) of the orthography of the Celtic names found in the recension. This could have ranged a little wider: with the unusual n_{cg} in Guorancgon and Gleuesincg (p.51), compare the non-Celtic Henggest (chapter 20, etc.) and Tarincgi (chapter 7). However, most such material has rightly been postponed for full treatment in vol.10.

In format the edition conforms to the Studies in Celtic History and the new edition of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, with the idiosyncracies which make volumes from this stable instantly recognisable. Some of the quirks are defensible, and one is grateful for the care which they evince; but the 'full caps' throughout the bibliography are obtrusively clumsy, and the double full stop whenever a sentence ends with an abbreviation is an irritating distraction, and is incorrect in that it contravenes a long-established convention. One symbol is lazily made to serve for both the philological arrow and the angled bracket (on consecutive lines at p.51, n.17), which is confusing as well as ugly. Again, the edition deserved better. I advise the editor, when punctuating his text, to make less use of the dash where commas or brackets would be apter.

The achievement of the edition is very much greater than appears from this one volume, masterly though it is. It is exciting to be in at the start of such a major venture, and apart from the production problems, which are probably just teething troubles, it fulfils our highest expectations.

O. J. PADEL

ADAM WATSON and ELIZABETH ALLAN, The Place Names of Upper Deeside, Aberdeen University Press, 1984, xxvii + 192 pp., plates, map on endpapers, £18.50.

The area covered by this survey is the upper reaches of the Aberdeenshire Dee and its numerous tributaries from Dinnet westwards: it is bounded on the south and west and partly on the north by the adjoining counties of Angus, Perth, Inverness, and Banff, and as its eastern boundary and the remainder of the northern side it takes the limits of the two present-day parishes it covers. It is in effect the south-western corner of Aberdeenshire, an area of something like 400 square miles. Apart from the valley of the Dee most of the land is moor and mountain above the 1000ft. contour and has never been heavily populated, though formerly more extensively farmed than is now the case. Those who attended the CNS conference in Aberdeen will remember the character of the terrain from the unusually well-prepared excursion they enjoyed there.

The survey treats the whole area as one unit and the greater part of the book (pp. 3-160) consists of a double-column list of its place-names in alphabetical order (disregarding the initial Gaelic and English articles), amounting in all to nearly 7000 items. The names are drawn in the first instance from the usual variety of documents and maps, and the entries incorporate earlier recorded forms and the observations of previous investigators, but a substantial portion of the whole has come to light in the course of the very thorough field-work undertaken by the authors over a ten-year period of devoted spare-time study. Every identifiable site has been visited and in the course of their enquiries 260 informants have been consulted for their knowledge of names in their locality, for their location and pronunciation, and, as occasionally appears from the lists, they have sometimes volunteered or been asked about their meaning. This, of course, is particularly useful when some oral tradition about relatively recent names is available.

One product of these enquiries has been some corrections of the forms or locations of names on the OS maps. Another is that the great majority of names are provided with a six-figure map reference, with pronunciations in modified IPA transcription, and with a coded indication of the number of informants bearing witness to the currency of the name. This stress on local information is justified both by its results in the supplementing of the necessarily incomplete documentary evidence, and by the desirability of recording names known only to oral tradition at a time when that tradition is imperilled by depopulation or instability of population. In this connection the authors also draw attention to the tendency for written forms in the public eye to affect the natural local pronunciation.

The major source of the place-name elements of this area is Gaelic and the time when Gaelic was the major language of the area cannot be very remote as the quality of the pronunciation of these names shows. It was indeed one of the achievements of the authors to discover the last native speaker of Deeside Gaelic in the course of their enquiries. These names are presented here in standard Gaelic spelling and, so far as is consistent with the evidence, in standard inflexional form; the modifying features are the elision of the article, the widespread loss of final open syllables, and the tendency to replace oblique cases by the nominative, apparently during the period when use of Gaelic was declining but the meanings of names were still known. This interpretation of modern pronunciation, and of earlier spellings in Scots, may perhaps be charged with introducing an element of artificiality; yet there is no sure alternative for names not previously recorded, and for the rest only the opportunity of an arbitrary choice between rival approximations in Scots orthography. On the credit side the literary Gaelic

forms will be immediately intelligible in most cases to those who read the language, which is more than can be said for the anglicised versions of Gaelic names in Ireland and elsewhere. Where there is uncertainty the authors discuss the alternatives and seem generally to have taken the right decisions: in the case of Poll Tearlaich, however, the pronunciation points to Séarlus rather than Tearlach, and in the case of Ach nan Saighdear the pronunciation seems to favour the singular an t-Saighdeir.

Those reared on the English Place-Name Society's volumes will notice that while this book in some respects provides more detail than they are used to there are some differences of plan apart from the treatment of all names in a single list (though that is undoubtedly the most accessible method for the general reader). One notable absentee here is the list of place-name elements found in the area studied. This is a less serious omission because of the high proportion of Gaelic names, which place the generic first with the specific following in the form of an adjective or noun in the genitive, so that the alphabetical listing incidentally provides a list of generics for those willing to take the trouble to extract them. The Scots elements and the Gaelic specifics, however, are less readily accessible.

The Introduction is largely devoted to explaining the lay-out of the entries in the name list; the information that can be extracted from the place-name evidence appears in this book as Appendix 3 (pp. 176-181) and is full of brief interesting observations which deserve further development, but the historical perspective is rather short and one misses any discussion of the probable British element in such names as Callater, Megen, and Pannanich, beyond the mere mention of their origin in the main list. The observation that some old people in Cromar used the pronunciation [sten] and not the usual Aberdeenshire [stin] for 'stone' is left undeveloped and its possible bearing on the kind of English that Upper Deeside Gaelic speakers first acquired is left unexplained. Did the translation name The Tailors' Stane represent a genuine pronunciation or is stane simply literary Scots? For the geography and land use, very briefly sketched at pp. xiii-xiv, we are referred to a separate publication of 1981.

This book comes to us with the high commendation of Professor Nicolaisen in his Foreword, and it fully deserves his approval of its method and its thoroughness and, perhaps by implication, of its detailed coverage of a limited area by local people with local knowledge and access to expert advice. It shows what hard work and enthusiasm can accomplish, and it deserves to be well received; but more than that it is to be hoped that it will prove an example and a stimulus to others.

The numerous photographs are informatively captioned; it is perhaps a pity that in so scenic an area colour could be afforded only for the one on the dust cover.

R. L. THOMSON

DOROTHY M. OWEN (ed.), The Making of King's Lynn: a documentary survey, British Academy, Records of Social and Economic History, new series IX, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 1984, 513 pp. + 2 illustrations, £36.00.

This volume triumphantly illustrates the wealth of written records through which we can study the life of English towns from about 1100 onwards. Its ancestry is as humble, and as interesting, as that of Lynn itself. The prosperous community of the thirteenth century and later, with its churches, guildhalls, warehouses, quays, and imposing private houses, all paid for out of participation in the Baltic, North Sea, and coastal trade, traced its origin to a cluster of saltworkings which had been established by the late eleventh century. More than twenty years ago Dr Owen collected a mass of documentary references for the use of the King's Lynn Archaeological Survey. The scheme for publishing this material, essentially topographical in character, was enlarged to cover the religious life of Lynn and, in collaboration with Professor Carus-Wilson, its trade and economic activity. Transcripts were gathered in a variety of ways, and now Dr Owen has brought the whole together as the third volume of the publications of the Survey.¹ The long gestation period, and changes of plan, are reflected in some aspects of the work, but overall the editor and publishers are to be congratulated on having made available such a mass of original material, which is the more valuable and representative because it concentrates on telling the story of a single community over some four hundred years.

For the most part the texts come from the borough's own muniments, the public records, the archives of Norwich Cathedral Priory and other religious houses, and the records at Arundel Castle. The last group owes its location to an early twelfth-century grant of a share in the profits of Lynn made to an ancestor of the dukes of Norfolk. A few texts, of which originals no longer survive, have been supplied from extracts published by earlier antiquaries. The texts are presented in nearly five hundred numbered entries, arranged in twenty-five subject groups. Each text has a summary heading. In a number of cases the text itself has not been printed, so that the heading provides a useful pointer to material elsewhere and sometimes unpublished. While it is possible within the volume to identify other published records concerning Lynn, very little indication is given of the extent of unpublished material from which the selection printed here has been made. To some degree, therefore, the representativity of the selected documents, and the potential of the whole surviving archive for further research, remains uncertain.

So far as is possible to tell, the incidence of misreadings and typographical errors in the texts is low. They do occur, however, and should be borne in mind as possible explanations for curious name forms, obscure vocabulary, or apparent grammatical confusion. A case in point is God' the fuller in the list of inhabitants of 1166-7 (p.71), who in the Pipe Roll Society's text appears less ambiguously as Godwinus. There seems to be good reason for the latter form, and so an editorial comment on the reading given would have been welcome.

The texts are introduced (pp.5-65) by an account of the origin, topography, and life of the town. This usefully sets the scene, often by reference to a wide range of sources not printed in the volume, but it is unfortunate that an externally imposed restriction on length has prevented Dr Owen from writing either the more rounded account of Lynn or the more critical assessment of the documents and their potential which she is uniquely qualified to provide. Other volumes in this British Academy series have concerned single documents or records from a tightly-defined context, whose significance is more self-evident than in the case of the much more

miscellaneous selection published here. On many topics the texts simply do not speak for themselves. This is particularly so concerning topographical development, perhaps the main point of contact between this and other volumes in the King's Lynn series. Dr Owen's valuable discussion of the expansion of the settlement by encroachment towards the sea (pp.16-18), for example, depends upon a group of references of which fewer than half are to documents in this volume, and she is able to make only the briefest mention of the archaeological evidence. Even a reader with the most detailed knowledge of Lynn and its records would have difficulty in reaching her conclusion on the basis of the texts given in this volume alone. Some of these problems would have been avoided had it been possible to provide a specially-drawn map identifying the many local landmarks which recur throughout the text: Bell's late seventeenth-century plan, reproduced at too small a scale as the frontispiece, does not serve this purpose.

It is difficult to do justice to the range of documents and subjects covered by this volume. After Little Domesday Book, the texts extend in date from the royal and episcopal charters of the early twelfth century concerning rights to tolls and the foundation of the church of St Margaret, to a list of streets, lanes, and wharves, compiled c.1577. Notable are the extensive lists of inhabitants, including that of 1166-7 already mentioned, the bede roll of the Holy Trinity guild (early thirteenth to early fourteenth century), and the full text of a poll tax return of 1379. Many deeds (mostly thirteenth and fourteenth centuries) illustrate land use in and around the town, special sections being devoted to records of salterns, and of the quays, streams, and river frontage. Stone houses are recorded from the early thirteenth century onwards. One had a great upper room (solium, wrongly translated as 'foundation') by the street with an entry beneath it leading to the rest of the house behind. Among the retailing establishments, selds, shops, and booths are often mentioned. More comprehensive, but less detailed, pictures of parts of the town are provided by terriers and rentals, most notably the late thirteenth-century Newland survey which occupies twenty-four printed pages.

The parochial development of Lynn can be traced from the foundation of the churches and chapels and the definition of their rights during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, to civic intervention in parochial affairs and the method of parish rating in the fifteenth. There are also many extracts from guild ordinances and accounts. Other financial records illustrate purchases made in Lynn and, most remarkably, the construction, in 1303, of three pontoon bridges for the use of the king's army in Scotland. Extracts from court records throw light on the civic disputes of the early fifteenth century, as well as on day-to-day administration, the provision of amenities, and the forms of violent death suffered in the town around 1300. A single chamberlain's account (1343-4) from an extensive series shows how, among much repetitive information, this type of record illuminates the comings and goings and personal relationships which played a large part in municipal affairs. The chattels and furnishings of daily life appear in a selection of wills and in a strikingly detailed assessment on moveables of c.1285-90.

Many letters (notably from a fifteenth-century private memorandum book) and deeds tell of relations between Lynn and the Hanseatic towns and their merchants. A vivid impression of the goods which passed through the port is given by a group of customs accounts. Particularly striking is the range of manufactured items, many from the Baltic region, imported during the fifteenth century. The impression is reinforced by a list of the 'haberdashery' found in a barrel belonging to an alien merchant c.1430: including spectacles, lenses, thimbles, harp strings, jet beads, hawk bells, ear pickers (?), writing tables, and inkhorns. A valuable group of accounts

from the 1320s enables us to trace the movement of individual ships in and out of the port.

Groups of records such as these suggest particular analytical exercises, but how are we to approach the set of documents as a whole? The value of this sample for the study of broad patterns in cultural affiliation and change, as revealed by personal names, has been well demonstrated by Cecily Clark in this journal.² For the topographical study of Lynn, this volume contains some important individual texts, but otherwise, as we have seen, can do no more than indicate the range of material available. The same is true for a number of topics concerning change over time, including the trade and occupational structure of the port, both subjects where interesting, but necessarily undeveloped, suggestions are made in the introduction. Readers will use this volume as the Historical Manuscripts Commission's reports on borough records were used, and they will resort to the index to speed their searches. Here a word of warning is necessary, for the index (10% of the whole book) is highly selective and erratic. Those who rely on the index will not discover Merlin the herald (nunci; p.386) or the use of the arms of St George (p.446); nor will they learn that the canons of Haverland (p.122), Shouldham Priory (p.183), and the 'abbot of St Everard' (p.184) held property in Lynn. Students of trades or the origin of the population, both topics for which the texts could provide a reasonable sample base, will have to do their own listing, for many occurrences (and some entire trades, e.g. glaswright on p.329) are ignored by the index, and places which occur as a supplemental element to a personal name seem not to be indexed at all.

Care should be taken too over the descriptions in the headings to the texts and over some of the translations and interpretations suggested. A charter attributed to c.1240 (no.13) is cited in the introduction (p.18) from another, but unpublished, text dated to 1288; the later date seems more likely to be correct. Debts by Lynn men to merchants owing allegiance to the king of France (no.489) are described in the heading as being due from Lynn merchants who themselves owed that allegiance. A substantial, and apparently respectable, tenement known as le Bathstowe or le vought is consistently traduced by being indexed as a brothel (p.486). In the introduction the sequence of the royal and episcopal charters granting the liberties of Oxford to the men of Lynn in 1204 has been reversed, creating an interpretive muddle which could have been avoided had the headings (the texts themselves are not given) referred to the versions of the texts which are printed elsewhere. Technical terms are sometimes given misleading interpretations: corneys (p.101) should surely read corveys (a type of leather) and not be translated as 'cornices'; teys are not ties (index) but toises or fathoms; muruell (p.100) should not be translated by the invented word 'murrell', but is an acceptable form for mulvel or cod. It should have been possible to clear up the confusion which has reigned since Ballard's time over the early twelfth-century misteria of Lynn (pp.10,95): for the reference, perhaps obscured by a later copyist, is surely to the services or offices (ministeria) associated with the collection of revenues in the town.

These uncertainties, and the shortcomings of the index, suggest that in its final stages this book was put together in an over-hasty fashion. Such limitations, however, do not detract from the enduring value and high quality of the texts themselves. This is an Urkundenbuch which is a joy to dip into for its variety of incident and which will stimulate many systematic lines of enquiry. It is a monument to the editor's pertinacity in seeing it through.

DEREK KEENE

NOTES

1. The two earlier volumes are: V.Parker, The Making of King's Lynn: secular buildings from the eleventh to the seventeenth century (Phillimore: Chichester, 1971); H.Clarke and A.Carter, Excavations in King's Lynn, 1963-71 (Society for Medieval Archaeology monograph series, no.7, 1977).
2. NOMINA VI (1982), 51-71, and VII (1983), 65-89.

JOHN S. MOORE (ed.), Domesday Book: 15, Gloucestershire, Phillimore: Chichester, 1985, £6.50 (paper), £10.00 (cloth).

The volume of Domesday Book text and translation under review is part of a county-by-county series, begun in 1975 and now almost complete. There is a reproduction of Abraham Farley's 'Record Type' edition on the left side of the page, facing a translation of the same portion of the text on the right. The only serious deficiency in the edition is the complete lack of modern page numbers; the editors have left the original foliation to suffice, along with section numbers, which are also used in the notes in the back of the book. There are a brief introduction and indices of personal names and place-names occurring in the text.

Although most of the attention paid to DB has concerned economic and geographic problems, a fair amount of scholarly interest has been directed toward its onomastic material. This volume for Gloucestershire is of special interest and value in this 900th anniversary year of the conception of the survey.

One problem confronting those interested in Gloucestershire, especially at the beginning of their studies, is that Gloucestershire and its neighbours on the north and north-east, Warwickshire and Worcestershire and to a lesser extent Oxfordshire, were the prime examples of the medieval practice whereby a church in one county could have detached holdings or outliers which were islands of jurisdiction completely surrounded by another county. For instance, Worcester Cathedral held Cutsdean at the time of the survey, and Cutsdean remained in Worcs. until 1931. The editor has clarified this type of problem very satisfactorily in the notes, which are generally adequate. The translation of the very abbreviated Latin text is also generally serviceable and consistent.

Of special interest for the later history of the county and its place-names is the appearance here of feudal personages who figured prominently in the county and, indeed, elsewhere in England. Urse d'Abetot, for example, left his name in the affix of Redmarley D'Abitot, which was in Worcs. until 1931 but is now in Gloucs., as well as in Croome D'Abitot, Worcs. Hascoit Musard, likewise, held land in various places in England, but his principal residence was at Miserden, Gloucs. This manor was called Greenhampstead until the fourteenth century (Greneha(m)stede in GDB) and took its new name from Hascoit's family, which held it until the 14th century.

Another group of names are the many forenames that gave rise to surnames and also figure in minor place-names. One example is Cwenhild, a nun, who held land in Naunton (Lower Slaughter Hundred) in 1086; she may have been affiliated with the nearby Abbey of St.Mary at Winchcomb. This forename is the source of the surname Quenyld', as it appears in 1327 SR; the man with this surname was assessed in Stanton, in the same (Lower Kiftsgate) hundred as Winchcomb in which there was a field-name Quenildessiche (1317 PNGl II.39). Winchcomb and Stanton are in the next hundred to Naunton, and, since this was not a very common personal name, one might wonder if there may have been a connexion; and if so, of what sort.

It is with some of the personal-name transliterations that questions of purpose and methodology arise. For instance, Walterus balisterius (W.3: Wales) is translated/transliterated as Walter the Gunner, the initial letter of Gunner suggesting a surname. Similarly, Gozelinus brito appears across the page as Jocelyn the Breton (W.12: also Wales), with the 'first' name translated into something more easily recognised in our modern-day name stock and the added article editorialising that this is to be regarded as a

nationality name, when it may well have been only a byname. The case of Willelmus Froisseleuu, which is translated as William Breakwolf, is another name which could have been satisfactorily left alone. A note could have given the etymology/translation of the OFr phrase-name, or else reference could have been made to scholarly works with translations or comments, but this type of translation is meaningless. It is only marginally related to the type Brusela(u)nce and has no meaningful English counterparts.

The question of bynames and their treatment is worth considering, if one wants to make the case that bynames and nicknames at the writing of DB still had some meaning and distinctive value. The largest group of bynames in this text comes from place-names. They are treated for the most part like genuine place-name bynames, that is, with a translation of Lat/OFr de into English 'of' and a modernisation of the French or English spelling of the place-name, when necessary; for example, Godwin of Stanton, who appeared across the page as Goduinus de Stantone (l.67: Great Barrington). But Geoffrey de Mandeville appeared in the text as Gaufridus de Manneuille (Gl.4: Gloucester). One might wonder why this name was treated differently from other bynames from French place-names, e.g. Robert of Tosny/Rotbertus de Toden (46.1: Great Rissington).

The most puzzling place-name identification concerns GDB Trinleie (19.2), which appears across the page as Rye. Late OE/early ME Trinleie normally gives ModE Tirley, but the O.S. grid reference (S)0 7721 in the index sends the reader on a blind hunt and gives the strange impression that Tirley Rye is more important and older than Tirley. The name-form occurs in the holdings of Westminster Abbey, which owned Tirley throughout most of the Middle Ages, and there is no historical reason for the identification of Trinleie as Rye. Also, PNGl (III.149-50) gives 1086 as the first occurrence for Tirley and 1248 for Rye, lending still more weight to the identification of Trinleie as Tirley.

Besides these minor reservations, however, this book should prove a very welcome addition to the libraries of both local historians and advanced scholars of DB.

C. M. CARNES

PUBLICATIONS OF NORSK NAMNELAG, THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES

As announced in NOMINA VIII, the Norwegian Society for Name Studies, Norsk namnelag, was established in 1983 and published the first volume of its periodical Namn og nemne in autumn 1984; Vol.II is due to appear in autumn 1985.

The first volume opens - appropriately - with an article on Oluf Rygh, the founder of Norwegian place-name study, the 150th anniversary of whose birth was celebrated in 1983. The author, Nils Hallan, has collected much biographical information about Rygh, who became the first professor of archaeology at the University of Oslo; but his main object is to show Rygh's importance as a name-scholar. He is best known for his 18-volume series on Norwegian farm-names, Norske Gaardnavne, published between 1897 and 1919, which set the pattern for similar publications in other Scandinavian countries and also influenced the EPNS series. Rygh died in 1899, so that all but three volumes of Norske Gaardnavne were published posthumously, as were two of his other great contributions to Norwegian onomastic literature: Norske Elvenavne (Norwegian River-Names) and Gamle Personnavne i norske Stedsnavne (Old Personal Names in Norwegian Place-Names). Of equal importance are his article on 'Norske Fjordnavne' (1896) and an article on mythological names, published in 1880 as a supplement to P.A. Munch's Norrøne Gude- og Heltesagn (not mentioned by Hallan). Rygh's background as an archaeologist is clearly reflected not only in his own onomastic work but also in that of his successors. Norwegian place-name scholars have constantly aimed at combining linguistic and historical evidence, and have, following Rygh's tradition, insisted that name-interpretations must correspond with topography.

The volume also contains an article on river-names composed with the still-unexplained element Nið-, a short study of the North-Norwegian place-name Drutvika, and a longer one of official street-naming in a West-Norwegian township.

Two further contributions deserve special mention. In Inge Særheim's well-written article, names from the Jæren district in Rogaland are discussed in relation to the land-uplift which took place after they were coined. Særheim cites evidence of a gradual withdrawal of the coast-line, and interprets in this light many hitherto obscure names.

Gunnstein Akselberg presents the most substantial article, 'Vikingtids-individualisme eller naturnemnerelasjonar', in which he discusses a principal question regarding the -staðir-names; whether their specifics are personal names and thus to be seen as reflecting the Viking Age break-up of the old society, or whether they are better explained as topographical terms. Older research favoured the former view, and the many -staðir-names which in the Landnámabók are said to give the original settler's name, seemed to support this. More recent studies, particularly J. Kousgård Sørensen's Danske bebyggelsesnavne på -sted (Copenhagen, 1958) and Þórhallur Vilmundarson's Safn til Íslenzkrar örnefnabókas (Grímnir 1-2 :Reykjavík, 1980 and 1983), have, however, shown that for many names a topographical interpretation is more satisfactory. Akselberg suggests new interpretations, topographical as well as anthroponymical, for the specifics of many -staðir-names from the parish of Voss and the surrounding communities in Hordaland. For most names, however, a definitive interpretation is, for several reasons, hard to attain. More farm-names may have been changed than has previously been supposed; and many names now looking like genuine -staðir-names, were in fact created during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Even for names which are undoubtedly ancient, absence of early records may make it virtually impossible to determine the nature of the specific.

The appearance of a new onomastic periodical is in itself noteworthy, and the first volume of Namn og nemne illustrates the variety of Norwegian name-studies, from etymological research into well-documented names, through studies of single names which have been orally transmitted, to problems of modern name-usage. The reason why other types of name, such as personal names, are not treated in this first volume, may be sought in the appearance in 1983 of another new periodical, Studia Anthroponymica Scandinavica.

Namn og nemne deserves attention outside Scandinavia, and the editors should be encouraged to include English summaries in later volumes.

Norsk namnelag also publishes a news-letter Nytt om namn, of which three issues have now appeared. This 'News about Names' is intended to keep members in touch with the Society and with one another. The first issue includes information on field-work in progress, on computer-based name-registers, and on the proposed changes in the official orthography for Norwegian place-names. The second issue contains short notes sent in by readers on the spelling of place-names, together with an interesting article on the structure of composite place-names. The most recent issue contains further information on place-name collection in several areas, and further members' views on name-usage, spelling and the meanings of individual names. All three include reviews of recent books related to the study of place-names and personal names.

Namn og nemne and Nytt om namn are sent to members of Norsk namnelag. Information about the Society can be obtained from Norsk namnelag, Nordisk institutt, Universitetet i Bergen, Sydneplass 9, N-5000 Bergen, Norway.

TOM SCHMIDT

No-one, a critic suggests, need read both 'Nugae' and The Times 'Diary'. He's wrong, though: sometimes the 'Diary' offers hints as to which West-End clubs are most hospitable to wife-swapping (because they're gentlemen's clubs, sexist expression becomes unavoidable), whereas 'Nugae' Read on, my sweets, read on . . .

By the way, how do **you** pronounce our title? New Guy, New Ghee, New Gay, New Gee, New Jay; or with Noo? Never, I hope, Nougat. A propos . . .

Black Magic

'We already had the name Wisp registered. It seemed appropriate, especially when we added an -a' [Sunday Times, 6.i.85, p.57].

Ever intrepid (not to say, self-sacrificing) in your service, your scribe sank tooth into the confection thus baptized. Unmemorable.

Another name did take a trick with us. Scampering through a library seeking what to devour, we met a machine trading sweetmeats for silver, and plumped (le mot juste, mes souriceaux) for a Bar Noir. Not bad. Any reader planning to offer comestible tokens of esteem should please note that we're strictly a bitter-chocolate mouse [PRINTER: Mind the hyphen there! - S.].

Oenonymica ferroviaria

A Sir Anthony Alment [a misprint? - S.] reminisced:

'For travellers whose tippie was claret, the GWR [God's Wonderful Railway! - Mus oxoniensis] in its heyday served in its restaurant-cars the cru bourgeois exceptionnel Château Mille-Secousses' [letter to The Times, 15.iv.85, p.15].

Fat C*ts - Cheap Skates

'British Rail plans to abolish Second Class: instead they will boast an Economy Class. Perhaps Upper Class and Lower Class would be out of keeping with the spirit of the times; Rich and Poor would be too blunt; Executive Class and Under-Privileged might tempt a few of us normally first-class travellers to throw in our lots with the lower fare-payers: Luxury Class and Ordinary Fare would result in a stampede towards the lower rate' [Auberon Waugh, in Sunday Telegraph, 20.i.85, p.18].

Motorway madness

'The long infatuation of the Department of Transport with the private motor car is well documented. Environmental lobby groups now refer to it as Toad Hall' [The Times, 30.i.85, p.12].

Tidings of great joy

'Retired country postwoman Gladys Hillier has achieved immortality on an Ordnance Survey map. A crossing-point over a Cotswold stream has been designated Gladys's Leap because she had to jump over the three-foot-wide brook every day during thirty-five years of deliveries in the village of Cranham, Glos. - and she never once got her feet wet' [Daily Telegraph, 10.iv.85].

Impasses

'A plan to name a cul-de-sac after the late Hull-born entertainer David Whitfield has been described as a "left-handed compliment" . . .

for one of our city's sons who has received national and international acclaim" [Hull Daily Mail, 19.vi.85, p.1; with thanks to our Editor].

'Nissan UK wanted Worthing Council to call the road outside their HQ Nissan Drive; but councillors have resisted, fearing claims for Tesco Terrace, Marks and Spencer Mews . . . There have been stranger names approved in Sussex; and odder objections. Socialists in Crawley were none too keen to find themselves living in Thatcher Avenue, even though the road was named long before the present Prime Minister took over. Plenty of towns have called streets after politicians; but so far no tower-blocks have been called after Disraeli, even though there would be some point in Dizzy Heights. Readers may believe we tolerate unusual names because there is an Argus Walk in Crawley; but that is called after a butterfly' [(Brighton) Evening Argus, 18.ii.85, p.6, with thanks, once again, to Master Ratoun; as often, silently abbreviated; cf. ante, VII, 115, and VIII, 85].

Evocations

The New Year found Miles Kington musing on sign-board names, from Temple Chambers (the fictional detective) to Lloyds Nightsafe (a wild flower). A popular novelist promptly wheeled out his own ways of inventing names for characters, then reversed to add: 'Miles Kington is a craggy hamlet high on the moors above Vanbrugh's ducal mansion at Sheridan Morley'. Among subsequent creations - among them The Hon. Boothby Graffoe, Sydenham Damerel (retired Cockney coiffeur), and Curry Mallet (ex-All India croquet champion [polo surely? - S.] - one savours the Essex melodrama of 'Sible Hedingham, Ivy Chimneys (her daily), Tolleshunt D'Arcy (her lover), Margaret Roding (her rival) and Black Notley (her downfall)' and, especially, this footnote to an old scandal:

'Our local gossip, known as Bag Enderby, alleges that the Lord of the Manor, Sir Claxby Pluckacre, was the protector of Mavis Enderby long before Old Bolingbroke, in his dotage, publicly announced their notorious liaison' [The Times, 11.i.85, p.10; 21.i.85, p.11; 22.i.85, p.15; 25.i.85, p.13; 29.i.85, p.11; cf. ante, VII, 115].

Alas, pressing duties back home in Muritania prevented our sampling one of Radio 4's delights:

'I Left my Heart in Sutton Coldfield. Can you imagine Gene Kelly bounding ashore singing, "Gravesend, Gravesend, it's a wonderful town"? Or Judy Garland pleading, "Take me to Manchester, Chester"? No? But why are English place-names so neglected by the song-writers?' [Radio Times, 31.viii. - 6.ix.85, p.39; readers' reflections on this theme will be welcome].

Misdescription under the Act

'Someone recommended you take a lover and a good book, because sure as Hell you won't find either on Grand Turk' [Angela Gordon on holidaying in the Caribbean, The Times, 14.ix.85, p.12].

Vocations: Pro- and Con-

Mr Muddle contributed to discussion of European air-fares; a vegetarian complained of persecutors called Butcher, Cattell, Stockman and Slaughter; Major-General Hugh Huntington Stable, late of the Indian Cavalry, retired to the great manège in the sky; Mr John Vice pontificated on 'moral absolutism'; political activists in Deptford included Messrs Batty, Burke and Nutter; Sarah Bunney reported on the 'complex world of rabbits'; Mr Squibb published

on Guy Fawkes' Day a potentially explosive tome [The Times, 'Diary' - 28.ii.85, p.10, obituary - 26.viii.85, p.12, letter - 30.viii.85, feature - 10.ix.85, p.14, 'Diary' - 4.xi.85; Sunday Telegraph, 24.iii.85, p.9, and letter, 16.xii.84, p.9]. Keith and Steven Brain collaborated on handbooks on artificial intelligence. Rainbow Quest won the Arc; Verdant Boy ran green on his début [Sporting Life, 19.x.85, pp.1, 11]. Russell Harty? In 1732 one Henry Justice was sent down at the Old Bailey for stealing from his college and university libraries [CU Libraries Information Bulletin, n.s. XI (Autumn 1983), p.5]. At Snailwell they breed racehorses. In the Middle Ages there were nunneries situate at Sinningthwaite and at Swine ('Grrr. . .'). Our file also offers, apart from the Breakwell glimpsed on a speeding removal van, Contours, travel-agents, and Wilcon Homes, speculative builders [cf. ante, VII, 114].

Proh pudor!

Past winners of the Frankfurt Book Fair prize for the book-title which 'most outrageously exceeds all bounds of credibility' include Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice [R.Ash and B.Lake, Bizarre Books (London, 1985), reviewed in Sunday Telegraph, 30.vi.85, p.17; cf. Eric Korn in TLS, 21.vi.85, p.694].

Avis aux muridés

'There is no 100% cure for c*ts. There are chemical deterrents, the best being the Garotta product Scoot . . .' [The Times, 19.x.85, p.35]. Water-cannon also recommended.

Habitative names

A small boy suggested naming a new house 'Bacon and Egg - it's the nicest thing I know.' His father's letter to The Times set others off. The Dun-series dominated (Celticists should move smartly on to the next paragraph): an observed but unexplained Dunchippin (variously ascribed to a retired stone-mason, fish-frier, electronics buff, or golfer), *Duncanaan (rejected by an ex-schoolmaster), Dunyompin (home of a Falklands veteran), Dunfillan (allegedly home of a former dentist [why not a garagiste? - S.]), and Dunroamin (now attributed to Alaric the Goth). Further encapsulations included: Lost Horizon (a house whose sea-view had been blocked), *Fair Copse (not used for a converted police-station), At Last and Banker's Order (homes of impecunious parties), and Burnham Rise (housing two teachers) [The Times, 28.viii.85, p.11; 31.viii.85, p.7; 2.ix.85, p.11; 6.ix.85, p.13; 7.ix.85, p.11; 13.ix.85, p.11; 14.ix.85, p.9; also Hull Daily Mail, date unknown].

Tongue-tied

'When we decided to name our new house, we were delighted to see a list of Gaelic names in the Post. We chose Tigh nan Craobh 'House of the Trees', because we live on the edge of the New Forest. The only trouble is, we don't know how to pronounce it!' [letter to (Scottish) Sunday Post, 9.xii.84, p.6; an editor's note suggested 'Tie na croove'].

Named for fame

Show-biz names, Miles Kington remarked, fall into patterns: Schu-bert / -mann; Offen-Bach; Weber-n; Schoen-Berg; Anthony Steele / Jeremy Irons; Tim Curry / Rice. So he dreamed up an agency for generating fresh ones: 'Our clients had not made up their mind whether to be a big bank or a big composer. Weber only needed an extra letter; Lloyd was Lloyd' [The Times, 4.iv.85, p.14].

For others the process is more organic:

'Pilobolus Dance Theatre take their name from a fungus - one whose properties include projecting its spores tremendous distances. The name is no whim. A work like Bonsai is typical of their style: the four dancers' bodies intricately woven or moulded together suggest a flower opening out or a caterpillar wriggling. Depicting organisms is the Pilobolus stock-in-trade' [Sunday Times, 13.i.85, p.41].

Hipp- Hipp- Hipponymy

'As a farmer's daughter, she was often given the most difficult pony to ride. One particularly recalcitrant specimen received the nickname of Sodyer because of her yells as she tried to persuade him to descend from the perpendicular' [The Times, 22.ii.85, p.27; readers unfamiliar with the young Amazon's lexis may consult English Studies LIV (1973), 576-9].

In other circles, horse-naming is bureaucratic. At the Spanische Reitschule visiting eyebrows may arch over names like Neapolitano Stella; but there's nothing androgynous about these swaggering danseurs nobles ('HNeihn, O, hneihn!'). It's just that naming is dynastic and automatic, with a male Lippizaner taking his father's name suffixed by his mother's; if promoted out of the corps de ballet, he drops the latter, substituting the appropriate numeral [acknowledgements to Cousin Mauserl von der Stallburg]. Such equine class-distinctions are not uncommon: a Percheron gentleman once known as South-Win Highwayman, for instance, found himself abruptly demoted to draught-horse and plain Turpin. As for English thoroughbreds:

'Even Phil Bull gave up when, after tendering the name of Ho Chi Minh for his Homing colt, he was told to obtain the family's written permission. Instead of dropping into a Chinese take-away and asking the waiter to send the menu off to Weatherbys, Timeform's bearded doyen settled for Ho Mi Chinh' [Sporting Life, 10.vii.85, p.3].

No wonder some heroes also get nicknames (hippocorisms), Corbiere - star-pupil of the now middle-aged Amazon aforesaid - becoming Corky, the late Browne's Gazette The Bomber, Chaplin's Club Charlie, and so on [Daily Mail, 29.iii.84, pp.20-1; The Times, *ut supra*; Radio 4, 19.i.85; Channel 4 Racing, 9.xi.85]. After all, what lad, at six of a winter's morning, would find himself saying, 'Would you care to take just a step or two sideways, Burrough Hill Lad, sir?' rather than 'Giddoverther, Buzby!?'

Vive le Marché Commun!

Overheard from a hay-rack:

'What's his name?'

'Nuremberg. He's out of a French mare, see, and when they're out of French mares we always gives'em French names.'

Averting the spell

'We haven't given him a name because we'd become too attached to him' - kennelmaid giving temporary care to a homeless pup [Cambridge Evening News, 2.i.85, p.11].

Disaster averted

'Things that are given names we don't usually eat' ['Stop the Week', Radio 4, 12.x.85].

Homard à l'américaine; and other reciprocities

The very latest is Royal Blue Lobster:

'Having been presented with his first Blue by a commercial lobsterman, Dr D'Agostino realised he would need a pair. His initial specimen was a female who acquired the name Cecile (lobstermen who bring the lab oddities are invited to name them; with females, they tend to limit themselves to names of wives, mothers or sweethearts). He heard that the Massachusetts State Lobster Hatchery had a lonely Blue male named Irving. Cecile was flown to Irving's side' [Telegraph Sunday Magazine, 2.vi.85, p.24].

How far the lesser creation may share human names seems a moot point. With dogs, so Lévi-Strauss asserted, this can hardly be 'sans provoquer un sentiment de malaise, sinon même un léger scandale' [La Pensée sauvage (Paris, 1962), pp.270, 272]. 'Iktis' made the same point more pragmatically:

'A beater had a dog called George. Unfortunately, the host was similarly christened and his sense of humour became strained by the commentary issuing from the coverts' [Field, 18.xii.82, p.1214].

It's all more complex than structural anthropologists may care to acknowledge. London Zoo's giraffes, for instance, are named after sports-humans, the latest being Steve (*sc.* Davis); but their longevity blurs connections a bit, so that no-one now remembers for whom Steve's mother Dawn, and various others, were named [The Times, 1.ii.85, p.3]. Then again, Merrily Harpur took her ailing tortoise, Kenneth Rose, to

'an up-market Kensington vet whose patients have embarrassing names. I suspect that the middle classes try names out on their dogs before they give them to their children. I remember when dogs were called Sebastian and Victoria; then children started to be called that, and the dogs became Henry and Kate. Now the Henry and Kate children are growing up with dogs called Theodore and Violet, and - watch the Births column ' [The Times, 23.v.85, p.14; KR, you'll be glad to know, is once again his sprightly self].

A dumb friend's name ought perhaps to be, in human terms, a little *démodé*. A year or two back we ourself had a friend called Ernie, whose sister was Emily; he had a long slender leg at each corner and an all-over apricots-and-cream complexion. We've also frolicked with medievalists' dogs called Offa (*sc.* of Mercia), Matilda (of Flanders) and Alice (of Leuven/Louvain).

Besides, transmissions aren't always what they seem. Another medievalist's c*t was called - no, **not** Pangur Bán - but William; not after the Ba- sorry, Conqueror, nor yet any abbot or scholar of the name, but after a notable fellow-f*1*n* resident with a, or rather (to speak as a pious M. oxoniensis), with **The** Keeper of Western Manuscripts.

Reportedly, a corporal-major in the Life Guards named his son Alexander after his drum-horse ['Trooping the Colour', BBC 1, 14.vi.85]. Have the partners of Cicero and of Coriolanus done the same, one wonders?

Labels for life

The Times's correspondents' analysis of the 1984 Births-column revealed William as still in second place, Henry and Diana still out of their respective top-tens [3.i.85, p.11; cf. *ante*, VII, 103-4, and VIII, 94-5].

More food for thought, as well as more fun, may - as a past citation pointed out [*ante*, VII, 104] - be had from the rarities. There's a splendid survey waiting to be done by someone with time and a statistical turn of

mind. For now, some casual observations

A Hampshire church visited last summer had on its walls current baptismal rolls offering, *inter alia* (or *alias*): Alexandra Louise Houssemayne du Boulay; Samantha Asenath Mills-Goodlet; the putative sisters Poppy Hester Rahla Katherine Kay and Sylva Megan Hermione Rose Kay; and the apparent twins Alexandra Eloise Mavesyn Underdown and Edwina Harriet de Berwick Underdown. Firbank lives!

Impressions there of fantasy given freer rein on girls' names [cf. *ante*, VIII, 116] seem borne out by the Births-column. Entries also giving siblings' names hint at patterns of choice - forward, all you onomasticians! Meanwhile, meet: Julian James Thomas Anstee, brother to Calista, Lucinda and Caroline; Siân Mary Beavers, sister to Bufyn; Catriona Croisdale-Appleby, sister to Mycroft, Lindsay and Merton; Thaleia Rosamund Helen Follett, sister to Daena, Saul and Morgane; Jenna Scott, playmate for Lauren, The Boulter, Hardy, Fatty and Oscar; Persephone Anne du Parcq, sister to Camilla, Chloe, Phoebe and John; Charles Clogg, son of Clodagh and Christopher, brother of Chloe; and the Bagge children, Alfred, Alexandra and Albert [*The Times*, 28.xi.84, p.26; 26.i.85, p.34; 4.ii.85, p.26; 13.ii.85, p.34; 20.ii.85, p.28; 25.ii.85, p.26; 11.iii.85, p.26; 29.iii.85, p.34; 3.iv.85, p.34]. A couple of puzzles (? analogues to the entries formerly made for offspring of Mrs Moss, now relegated to the sports pages): 'FEELY-DORSET - To Trotter, a son Bilbo'; and 'BALME - At Whips Cross Hospital, to Sue and Steve, a son "Fluffy"' [*ibidem*, 16.ii.85, p.26; 12.iii.85, p.34].

Amidst that very paragraph, a passing ptarmigan dropped in some jottings from a paediatric ward. Here infelicities seem artless, with Iona and Maida chosen irrespective of collocation, Norman Frank Stein just saved from being Frank N. Stein, and poor hyperactive Kim(berley) Motion forever in a commotion.

Inspirations

Why those, or any other, choices? Occasionally we're partly told: 'Sharon's mum was going to call her Diana, but thought Diana Duce sounded too much like Diana Dors' [*Radio Times*, 31.viii. - 6.ix.85, p.5]. More often, we're left to speculate, and do:

'Why William? Why Henry? Why not George or Arthur, or even Kevin or Terry? I have spotted the pattern behind the royal names: William and Henry are two of the four main characters in the books by Richmal Crompton. If correct, my theory enables me to predict the names of the next two princes: Prince Ginger and Prince Douglas' [Miles Kington, in *The Times*, 27.viii.85, p.10 (also Princess Violet Elizabeth - S.); cf. *ante*, VII, 103-4, and VIII, 94-5].

If correct? As your scribe sat one evening a-trifling, an æthereal voice announced that the next-king-but-one's new playmates had in truth been instructed to call him 'just William'.

Personal though each may seem, choices go in waves. A plethora of Terrys in show-biz circles fascinated Richard Boston:

'It all began with the Roman dramatist Terence, Publius Terentius Afer. But that doesn't explain why centuries later parents are naming their little darlings after Terence rather than Plautus. Be that as it may, being called Terence seems to launch the bearer in the direction of the arts. . . . It is hard to say when Terence became Terry . . .' [*Guardian*, 21.v.85, p.23; a letter promptly pointed out the etymological confusion, 23.v.85, p.12].

No, it doesn't explain it; nor does Withycombe's ascription of the Irish currency of Terence to admiration of a third-century Carthaginian saint. The more classically-based the theory, the wider - one fears - of the mark. Dear Philip Howard too seems subtly wrong:

'Small boys rampage to live up to the name of Jason, and dumpy little girls are shell-shocked to find themselves called Helen. But the world is wrong in its expectations of Helen and Jason. The wide diffusion of Helen is due not to the frisky queen of Menelaus but to Helena the mother of the emperor Constantine. Our modern Jasons are not related to the chap who went around sowing dragon's teeth. Jason started to be used as a Christian name, particularly in the United States, in the seventeenth century. It comes from the Bible, naturally: from Jason, the author of Ecclesiasticus, and Jason, St.Paul's kinsman. So relax, Jasons: it is perfectly all right for you to be bookish and wear specs' [*The Times*, 4.1.85, p.10].

Parents of rampageous Jasons seldom look like avid readers of Ecclesiasticus.

More plausibly, Emma's recent popularity was ascribed by Leslie Dunkling to admiration, not of the novel, but of the TV serial The Avengers and its heroine [letter to *The Times*, 29.xii.84, p.7; cf. *ibidem*, 20.xii.84, p.9]. A *Guardian* leader-writer likewise reflected on Debbie:

' . . . presumably Deborah, as in D., nurse of Rebeckah, D., wife of Lapidoth, and D., mother of Ananiel. But the essential clue must lie somewhere in the popular culture of the '50s and '60s: Deborah Kerr, on the one hand; Debbie Reynolds, on the other - unless, of course, a clutch of upwardly-mobile parents wanted to give their daughters the real debbie treatment' [25.v.85, p.12; cf. letter, 30.v.85, p.12, 'Deb is far prettier than stiff sentinel-keeping Deborah, who has a future on the Israeli general staff, or twittering duplicated Debbie'].

Dynasts of Dawlish

Fantasizing about discovery of oil in his Devon orchard, Arthur Marshall made plans:

'for becoming an oilperson. My Christian name is quite unsuitable: writers of fiction use it for indicating either a half-witted booby, the butt of the 19th Hole, or a tipsy and amorous commercial traveller telling vulgar jokes and chatting up Miss Loosely in the Snug. I am calling myself Crag. Crag has a fine, solid, rocky, reliable, weather-beaten sound. And I must hastily acquire a chic wife to host (ghastly verb) the oil-baron parties that I shall be throwing. As to her name, I want something shining and hard and glittering. Crystal seems already to have been used somewhere. Steel would do very well, though the phrase, "Steel is just changing her frock" might cause muddles, so I've settled for Diamond' [*Sunday Telegraph*, 6.i.85, p.16].

Impudence and dignity

One was of late passably shattered to hear a post-doctoral person (from Mustélique, of course) enquiring whether she ought, as a courtesy, instantly to first-name a distinguished visiting scholar to whom she had yet to be introduced.

Manners are admittedly in the melting-pot [cf. *ante*, VI, 46-9, and VIII, 89-90, 95]:

'We are less keen on class, and more keen on appearing one of the lads at all costs. That is why we never address people by their surnames. It would sound unfriendly. Old-fashioned gents do still address one by one's surname tout court, and we recognize this as the most intimate appellation that they have; they would give Mr only to tradesmen. . . . So we start our letters with Dear Philip Howard, in case Mr Howard looks cold; and Terry Wogan and others are on first-name terms with archbishops even as they meet them for the first time' [Philip Howard, in The Times, 5.x.85, p.8].

On the epistolary side, a radio chat which the Editor taped for us took different tacks, noting the handiness of Dear Hilary Stoate as salutation to a correspondent whose gender and/or status is/are unclear, then further asserting that to address as Mr Stoate, rather than Kevin Stoate, a public figure like a footballer is to deny his fame ['Stop the Week', Radio 4, 27.iv.85; cf. ante, VIII, 89]. Not all think the position out: 'John Francome, called before the Stewards, made the request that they address him as Mr Francome, or even John, but not Francome' [British Thoroughbred Racing News, XI, 30.iv.85, p.13]. To some, though, first-name address, unreciprocated, might seem more offensive than plain surname - as to footman rather than butler.

Politics, of course, long ago embraced the populist mode:

'An atrocious old don at Cambridge used to say, glowering: "The rot set in with Lloyd George". Even in trivial ways Lloyd George was first off the mark - use of Christian names in the cabinet, for instance' [Sunday Times, 10.ii.85, p.45].

An anecdote told by Roy Jenkins about Hugh Dalton offered a perspective going beyond the simply historical:

'Once as we were entering the Chamber, Hugh called to a working-class member: "Hello, Fred!" Turning to me, he said: "You know, Roy, you'll never get on in politics until you learn to call that chap Fred." I pointed out that the man's name was Bert' [quoted in London Review of Books, 21.iii.85, p.3].

A knightly (? bartly) correspondent to The Times protested against the present public familiarity: 'It belittles the problems we confront and engenders a belief that they are easily soluble by any Tom, Dick or Harry' [11.ix.85, p.13].

Sometimes, though, what comes through a plea for unceremoniousness is a sense of lacrimae rerum:

'Saying goodbye, and trying to be polite, I called him Your Grace. He turned his head. "None of that," he said; "Don't ever call me that again. I don't like it. I'm just Andrew. I'm just human. You've got to remember that about me: I'm just human"' [report of a conversation with the Duke of Devonshire, in Sunday Times, 19.v.85, p.10; cf. ante, VI, 45, also VIII, 90].

Elective appellations

For men at least, surnames - family-names - might seem fixed poles. Not quite, however; self-determination can prevail. Paul Hamlyn, the publisher, brother to Michael Hamburger the poet, 'changed his name because he did not like being nicknamed Sausage and Wimpy' [The Times, 30.vii.85, p.2]. Others profess deeper motivations:

'His mother was a Yorkshirewoman called Bertha Wharton, who had married a German Jew from Bradford called Paul Sigismund Nathan. Michael

dropped Nathan and adopted Wharton. His wife had borne him a son, and he wanted to make a new start: "one symbolic way of doing this," he explains, "was to remove a label which, quite apart from its potency in the eyes of others, did not rightly belong to me." Nathan is a potent name: to some it may suggest good old reliable Nathan Detroit; or it might recall Lessing's play, Nathan the Wise, about the good Jew making peace between Muslim and Christian. But really Michael Wharton, in his Peter Simple rôle, is more like the original prophet Nathan. . . . Years later, Michael's son decided, in a burst of Jewish romanticism at the time of the Six Days' War, to change back to Nathan' [review of M. Wharton, The Missing Will (London, 1984), in London Review of Books, 4.iv.85, p.20].

Women might, by contrast, be thought deprived of anthroponymical autonomy (autonymy). Onomastic pressures, one woman complained, had steam-rolled her into unnecessary matrimony:

'It had become confusing in the dry-cleaners': "I think I left the coat in the name of Etherington," I would say. . . . "Thank goodness I shan't have to put two surnames on the envelopes when I'm writing to you," said Aunty Ethel at the reception' [The Times, 6.i.85, p.11].

Never mind that similar complications attend, say, two wholly conventional sisters, one at least of them widowed, should they set up house together.

To other women of the 1980s the instability of feminine surnames brings not constraints but room to manoeuvre [cf. ante, VI, 46, VII, 109-10, and VIII, 91]:

'Divorced in 1973, Mrs Chalker (née Bates) did not marry again until 1981, when she became Mrs Clive Landa. She decided to continue using her previous name, arguing that Lynda Landa "sounded rather like someone who has their name in lights in Shaftesbury Avenue"' [Telegraph Sunday Magazine, 21.vii.85, p.9].

Susan Crosland too has proceeded unconventionally:

'I used to write under the name Susan Barnes in order to keep an identity separate from my husband's. Now there's no reason not to use the name I love best. So I do' [Sunday Times, 6.i.85, p.35].

With all respect for her bereavement, one cannot but wonder whether she'd have done the same as widow of steady old Tony Stoate the bank-clerk. A writer's identity is crucial. For some forty years Agatha Christie, for instance, went on writing under the name of her first success, despite the humiliating end of the marriage it commemorated.

Goose and gander

Richard Slaney refuses to answer to Mr Mary Decker, saying, 'I do like to think a few people in England knew me before I married her' [The Times, 31.i.85, p.20]. So let's hope he'll reprove, with all his 23 stone, the journalists who keep calling his spouse Mary Slaney.

Nolet episcopari

An article appeared in the Guardian under the by-line John York, with a note identifying the author as archiepiscopus eboracensis. Pat came a protest from a reverend correspondent: 'John Habgood we know, and John Ebor. . . .' [27.v.85, p.7; 31.v.85, p.14]. Still, after Jim Stepney [ante, VIII, 95], what can surprise?

Vivent les différences?

Too often gender bedevils reason. 'I can't decide how to abbreviate her name,' wailed a male reviewer: 'if I call her Austen, she sounds like a parlourmaid; if I call her Jane, I shall be thought sentimental' [The Times, 20.xii.84, p.9; cf. ante, VII, 112-13]. If one calls him Thackeray, does he sound like the butler?

A medical practitioner complained of the Passport Office's restricting to males among medicos the right to represent first-names by bare initials [letter to Guardian, 29.vi.85; cf. ante, VII, 114]. Odd of them to permit it at all, irrespective of trade or gender. Perhaps with physicians gender may be of particular import; but only at the bedside, surely. Besides, dammit, passports carry photos.

Tricks abound for making names reveal gender, and with it women's (but only women's) marital status - matters generally irrelevant save to the subject's nearest and dearest, or any aspiring to become such (apart, of course, from pedants like the NOMINA bibliographer, intent on distinguishing idem from eadem). Academic lists often employ for men surname preceded by initials and followed by letters, but for women give first-name in full, sometimes preceded by Mrs even when suffixed letters show Dr as the proper handle. Unsymmetrical distinction similarly figures in a recent author's acknowledgements: whereas the only handles given there to men (other than foreigners) are Dr, Professor, Sir and Mgr, women get Mrs as well as Dr (zero, for males equivalent to Mr, presumably implies Miss) [L.J.Macfarlane, William Elphinstone and the Kingdom of Scotland 1431-1514 (Aberdeen, 1985), pp.ix-xi].

Pursuing studies in comparative socio-onomastics, your reporter read, 'Frau is used where in English you'd use Ms' [Deutsch Direkt, 1985, p.9]. What, never? Or just occasionally - 'as a subtle put-down'? [cf. Mary Kenny, in Sunday Telegraph, 1.ix.85]. Animadversions on the subject in Radio Times aroused a would-be satirist:

'Not all men are proud to think that they have conformed to the weaker needs of their libido by getting married. May I suggest that a man, regardless of age, retains the title Master until stupid enough to be ensnared?' [15-21.vi.85, p.81, letter signed '(Master) . . . (aged 35)'; cf. ibidem, 25-31.v.85, p.72].

King Charles's Head

'What about the names of pubs in this hideously male-dominated island? The Bulls and White Horses, the Red Lions, the Dukes of Wellington, the countless King's Heads, the Foxes (with or without Grapes), the Stags, the Georges and the Cocks. Where are their female counterparts? I never had a drink yet at the *Old Cow, nor at the *Black Bitch for that matter, and I look in vain for a *Nanny and Compasses. Some few can be traced with a feminine flavour; there are Angels about [gender-free, surely? - S.], and a Queen's Arms, no doubt, and the famous Mermaid at Rye; but the overall picture is a disgraceful example of brewer's chauvinism' [Guardian, 31.xii.85, p.12].

Common-gender terms (like mouse) apart, what about The Red Cow, a good Guardianly name if ever there was one (address supplied on request)?

From bias free of every kind

'Martha Scarthatch - the androgynous personality who has transformed British politics: no appearance can take place until every golden strand of Scarthatch's hair is carefully in place' [The Times, 8.i.85, p.10].

Creative confusions

'Rumours which caused turmoil on the world money-market were put down to a Tokyo announcement that Lonnie Donegan had had a heart-bypass operation. This was interpreted by many Japanese dealers as Ronnie, therefore Reagan' [Sunday Telegraph, date untimely ripped off, p.1].

More often it's the printed word that enriches reality. The Times gave a correspondent's address as All Souls' Cottage, Oxford [28.ii.85, p.11]. After it had announced a Mr Sebastian Cow's forthcoming birthday, one Haggis by name asked whether this were the winner of 'last year's Milk Race, beating Mr Steve Ovine by a short head' [29.ix.85; 2.x.85, p.11]. As for the legendary Grauniad, a correspondent noted its advertisement of a Chair in Economics at the University of Sterling, enquiring whether that institution had any links with Dollar Academy [1.vi.85, p.15]. Elsewhere hand colluded with ear, mind with eye, as in a magazine repeatedly referring to Keyes College, Cambridge; challenged, its editor 'irritably said he knew perfectly well it was a misprint for Keynes' [TLS, 14.vi.85, p.666]. A customer of Eric Korn's merged earth with heaven:

"Hey, I have something from this same guy's library," remarked a bookperson to me recently, pointing to an eighteenth-century Book of Common Prayer with the Divine monogram inlaid on the upper cover; "I.H.S., have you any idea who he was?" I played the perfect Englishman: "Yes, I do know, but I'm not claiming, actually, that it's His own copy" [TLS, 15.iii.85, p.285].

En marge de l'anthroponymie

Epistolary salutations and valedictions bear, albeit obliquely, upon socio-onomastics, in so far as both involve use, or suppression, of personal names [cf. supra, p.136]. A question twice raised this year concerned feminine equivalents for Dear Sirs. Dear Mesdames? - precious. Dear Madams? - doubly opprobrious. Dear Ladies? - given louche connotations by TV comedy. Dear Msses? - only for queen bees. Dear Sisters? - only for, and from, militants. Dear Soeurs? Dear Personelles ('a businesslike ring with a touch of femininity')? Gentlewomen? Godfrey Smith cited approvingly the Bey of Algiers, who 'addressed his harem as My Dears' [Sunday Times, 6.i.85, p.18, cf. 16.xii.84, p.14; The Times, 18.v.85, p.9, 23.v.85, p.15, and 25.v.85, p.7]. À propos, ought a male Fellow of Girton (now that such paradoxical beings exist) to address the Head of the House as Dear Mistress?

Competition

A signed photograph of your scribe awaits the first reader (other than a member of the Editorial Board) aptly to deduce the context - not necessarily the exact provenance - of this excerpt:

'Sit, Kevin; I said, sit! Come along now, Darren! Walk to heel like a good boy, and stop pulling. And Wayne, you just put that bottle down at once; you never know where it's been . . .'

In whose eye-socket, that is. Ave atque vale!

SOURIS

Institute of Socio-Onomastics,
University College of Muritania.

COUNCIL FOR NAME STUDIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ESSAY PRIZE

1. A prize of £50 will be awarded annually for the best essay on any topic relating to the place-names and/or personal names of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Man and the Channel Islands.
2. Submissions are invited from all students and young researchers. The prize will normally be awarded to those who have not hitherto had work in onomastics published.
3. Entries should be about 5000 words in length.
4. Entries should in some way make an original contribution to the subject.
5. One copy of the essay should be submitted to the Secretary of the Council in clear typescript, double-spaced, and should include a bibliography of sources of material used and of books and authors cited.
6. Entries will be judged by a panel appointed by the Chairman of the Council, and may be considered for publication in NOMINA, the Journal of Name Studies relating to Great Britain and Ireland.
7. Entries must be submitted by December 31st and, provided an essay of sufficient merit is forthcoming, the winner will be announced at the Annual Name Study Conference in the spring of the following year.

Entries should be sent to:-

The Secretary,
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- WATSON, see ALLAN.
- WATTS, V.E., 'The place-name Hindrelac', Richmond Review VII (1984), 22-3.
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I - current 1985; II - projected

GENERAL AND RELATED

- NICOLAISEN, W.F.H. (State University of New York - Binghamton) : II - a book on names (for Indiana University Press).
- ROOM, A. (Petersfield, Hants.): I - three books on names, respectively, of cats, dogs, and horses (for Routledge and Kegan Paul).

ANTHROPONYMY

- DODGSON, J.McN. (University College London): I - the post-Conquest personal-names in Domesday Book.
- Ó RIAIN, P. (University College, Cork): I - a study of the Celtic saints of Cardiganshire (as sub-chapter for the county history).
- REDFORD, M. (University of Edinburgh): I - 'Saints of the Celtic Church in Scotland' (PhD thesis, making substantial use of anthroponymical evidence; supervisor J.Bannerman).

TOPONYMY

- COATES, R. (University of Sussex): I - several studies of individual, mainly early, English place-names; II - a classified and annotated bibliography of place-name studies relating to Sussex.
- COLE, A. (University of Oxford): I - the use of cealc in English place-names.
- DODGSON, J.McN. (University College London): I - the place-names of Domesday Book.
- ELLIS, J.R. (University of Durham): I - 'Place-names of Chester Ward, Co. Durham' (PhD thesis; supervisor V.E.Watts).
- FELLOWS-JENSEN, G. (University of Copenhagen): I - Scandinavian place-names and Viking settlement in Normandy.
- FREEMAN, J. (University College London): I - 'Place-names of Herefordshire recorded before c.1350' (PhD thesis; supervisor J.McN.Dodgson).
- OWEN, H.W. (Y Coleg Normal, Bangor): I - a book on place-name study as an element in secondary-school teaching of history and environmental studies (commissioned by the Welsh Office and the Department of Education, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth).
- PADEL, O.J.: see WATTS.
- RUMBLE, A.R.: see WATTS.
- WATTS, V.E., as co-ordinating ed., with O.J.PADEL and A.R.RUMBLE: II - a dictionary of English place-names (for Cambridge University Press; publication provisionally set for 1990).

CONFERENCES - FORTHCOMING

- The XVIIIth Annual Conference of the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland will take place from 4 to 7 April 1986 at the University of Exeter. The programme of papers has been organised by **Mr Oliver Padel**. Speakers will include Miss M.Camsell, Dr.A.R.Rumble, Miss J.Scherr, M. B.Tanguy and Mr V.Watts.
- The 111^e Congrès national des Sociétés savantes, organized by the Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques, will be held at Poitiers from 1 to 5 April 1986. The programme of the Section d'Histoire médiévale et de Philologie, this year devoted to Anglo-French relations from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, will include consideration of family-names. Anyone interested in this Congress or its published *Actes* should apply to the Secretary of the Comité, **Mme M.Seydoux**, Ministère de l'Education Nationale, 3-5, boulevard Pasteur, 75015 - Paris.
- The Annual Conference of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies will be held at Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Galloway, from 4 to 8 April, 1986.
- The Society for the Study of Human Biology is holding at Oxford, in April 1986, a meeting at which **Professor G.W.Lasker** (Wayne State University, Detroit) will give a paper on 'Isonymy' [i.e., sharing of surnames].
- The Historical Geography Research Group of the Institute of British Geographers is holding at Birmingham, from 10 to 12 July 1986, a conference entitled 'Before Domesday: the Historical Geography of Early Medieval England'. Anyone interested in attending this conference should apply to **Dr D.Hooke**, Department of Geography, University of Birmingham.
- The Fifth Annual Conference on English Historical Linguistics will be held from 6 to 9 April 1987 at St John's College, Cambridge. Papers are invited on any subject relating to the history of the English language; abstracts (200/300 words) should be submitted by 1 June 1986 to **Sylvia Adamson**, ICEHL V, Faculty of English, 9 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP.
- The Third Conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, to be held at Toronto in April 1987, will be focused on word-studies and lexicography. Anyone wishing to offer a paper at this meeting should submit an abstract to **Professor Roberta Frank** before 15 June 1986.
- The Sixteenth Meeting of ICOS will be held from 16 to 21 August 1987 at Laval University, Québec.

LECTURES, DAY-SCHOOLS, COURSES

- The Institute of Irish Studies and the Ulster Place-Name Society sponsored two public lectures at the Queen's University, Belfast, in 1985: (i) on 25 April **Professor Proinsias Mac Cana** (Department of Old Irish, University College, Dublin) spoke on 'Place-names and Irish mythological tradition'; (ii) on 5 December **Mr Oliver Padel** (Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter) spoke on 'Cornish place-names'.
- Dr Richard Coates** (University of Sussex) gave two lectures: (i) 'A theoretical foundation for semantically-based analogical reformation [of place-names]', delivered to the Linguistics Association of Great Britain at Salford on

2 April 1985; (ii) 'How many Britons didn't Ælle massacre at Pevensey?', delivered to **Tha Englisca Gesithas** at Worthing on 29 September 1985.

Mr D. Ó Murchadha gave a lecture on 'The influence of P.W.Joyce on the study of place-names' at the **Joyce Brothers School, Kilfinane, Co.Limerick**, on 20 September 1985.

Dr Hywel Wyn Owen (Y Coleg Normal, Bangor) gave lectures at the Day-School held at Hawarden on 1 June 1985 by the **Clwyd Place-Name Council**, to the **Place-Name Survey** at Mold on 7 October 1985, to **Clwb Hanes Bagillt** (History Club) at Bagillt on 21 October 1985, to the **Welsh Society at Birkenhead** on 13 January 1986, and to the **Border Counties Archaeological Group** at Wrexham on 26 February 1986.

At the **Tenth Viking Congress** held at Larkollen, Norway, from 28 August to 3 September 1985, papers were given by **Dr G.Fellows-Jensen** (University of Copenhagen) on 'The Vikings' relationship with Christianity in the British Isles: the evidence of place-names containing the element *kirkja*' and by **Dr K.I.Sandred** (University of Uppsala) on 'The Vikings in Norfolk: some observations on the place-names in -bý'.

Professor John McNeal Dodgson (University College London) gave papers to the **ICOS Conference** held at Leipzig in August 1984 and to the **ISAS Conference** held at Cambridge in August 1985. He will also deliver one at the Institute of British Geographers/Royal Historical Society's **Domesday Book Commemorative Conference** to be held at Winchester in June 1986.

Professor W.F.H.Nicolaisen (State University of New York - Binghamton) gave several papers: (i) 'Names reduced to words? Scope and function of a Dictionary of Scottish Place-Names', delivered to the **Fourth International Conference on Scottish Language and Literature - Medieval and Renaissance**, which was held from 26 to 31 July 1984 at the University of Mainz; (ii) 'Socio-Onomastics', delivered to the **ICOS Conference** held at Leipzig in August 1984; (iii) 'The making of an historical place-name dictionary', delivered to the **Commission de Toponymie, Québec**, on 18 December 1984; (iv) 'Is there room for name-studies in Geolinguistics?', delivered to the **International Conference of the American Society of Geolinguistics**, which was held on 21 April 1985 at New York University.

Dr Doreen Waugh (University of Edinburgh) gave a paper on 'Some aspects of the transition from Gaelic to Scots/English in Caithness place-names' to the **Languages of Scotland Conference** held at Aberdeen in July 1985.

Mr John Field contributed to a workshop on field-names held at Halesowen in August 1985.

Miss Cecily Clark gave a paper on 'The *Liber Vitae* of Thorney Abbey' to the Medieval Group at Sheffield University on 12 February 1986.

The Department of Adult and Continuing Education at the University of Leeds held on 23-24 February 1985 a weekend course on practical palaeography, during which **Dr A.R.Rumble** (University of Manchester) spoke on 'Signs and abbreviations in medieval manuscripts and documents'.

The Department of Extra-Mural Studies at the University of Bristol offered during Autumn Term 1985 a course of ten evening lectures on 'Place-Names and the Early History of Somerset', the tutor being **Mr M.D.Costen**.

The Department for External Studies, University of Oxford, held on 23-24 November 1985 an Archaeology Certificate weekend-course devoted to 'English place-name studies: past, present and future'. The tutors were **Dr Margaret Gelling** (University of Birmingham), **Mrs Ann Cole** (University of Oxford), and **Mr John Field**.

The Department for External Studies, University of Oxford, will hold on 3 May 1986 a Day-School on 'The Anglo-Saxons in the Upper Thames Valley', at which **Dr Margaret Gelling** will lecture on recent work on place-names.

School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh: Joint Honours Courses have been instituted in **Scottish Ethnology**, which can be combined with Celtic, with English Literature and Language, with Scottish History, or with Social Anthropology; **Mr Ian Fraser** teaches a half-course (18 lectures) on **Scottish Onomastics**.

University College London: Professor **John McNeal Dodgson** continues teaching his MA course in **English place-name studies** and gives occasional lectures on this theme in Language courses for English Honours students.

HONOURS

Professor **Kenneth Jackson** was created **CBE** in the Birthday Honours List 1985.

APPOINTMENTS, HIGHER DEGREES, AWARDS

John McNeal Dodgson (University College London) has been awarded the title of **Professor of English**, with effect from 1 October 1985.

Professor **W.F.H. Nicolaisen** (State University of New York - Binghamton) has been awarded the rank of **Distinguished Professor in English and Folklore**. He has also been elected to the newly-formed ICOS Executive Committee.

Professor **Padraig O'Riain** (University College, Cork) has been appointed Chairman of the Working Group which the Royal Irish Academy established in Summer 1985 to co-ordinate the work going forward on the Historical Dictionary of Irish Place-Names and Tribal Names.

Doreen Waugh received from the University of Edinburgh in July 1985 the **Degree of PhD** in consideration of her thesis, 'The place-names of six parishes in Caithness, Scotland'.

Dr Hywel Wyn Owen (Y Coleg Normal, Bangor) has been awarded by the University of Wales a small grant to enable a pilot study to be conducted into the use of place-name material in primary schools.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help is needed with the compilation of entries for the projected Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names. A modest remuneration is offered. Anyone who is interested in taking part in this work should get in touch with **Mr V.E. Watts**, Grey College, Durham DH1 3LG.

ORDNANCE SURVEY

The Ordnance Survey has issued a microfiche name-index to the 1: 50,000 maps. This includes every named feature, however minor, with its identifying grid-reference.

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. We are grateful to all those who have sent in information for this issue, and especially to **Dr R.Coates**, **J.Scherr**, **Drs R.H.Bremmer**, **Dr K.Dietz**, **I.A.Fraser**, **Dr D.Hooke**, **Prof G.W.Lasker**, **Dr C.G.N.Mascie-Taylor**, **D.Ó Murchadha** and **T.Roberts** for supplementing the editorial gatherings.

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THE COUNCIL FOR NAME STUDIES
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