

TWO NEW BOOKS BY GERMAN SCHOLARS

RUDIGER FUCHS, *Das Domesday Book und sein Umfeld: zur ethnischen und sozialen Aussagekraft einer Landesbeschreibung im England des 11. Jahrhunderts*, Historische Forschungen im Auftrag der historischen Kommission der Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur XIII, Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden GmbH: Stuttgart, 1987, 424 pp., price not stated.

This study of 'national' consciousness in late-eleventh-century England is based upon a detailed survey and analysis of the way that ethnic adjectives are deployed as personal bynames in Domesday Book. The background and basis of this usage is explored in minute detail that makes this a definitive study of this topic.

JAN GERCHOW, *Die Gedenküberlieferung der Angelsachsen, mit einem Katalog der libri vitae und Necrologien*, Arbeiten zur Frühmittelalterforschung XX, Walter de Gruyter: Berlin, 1988, xxxii + 417 pp., DM 198.

This book constitutes one of the most important contributions recently made to the study of Old English personal-naming. The author, who is a member of the interdisciplinary team at Freiburg University that is devoted to studying medieval 'commemorative documents' (viz. *libri vitae* and necrologies) as source-material for prosopographical and therefore also *pari passu* anthroponymical research, has assembled and analyzed almost thirty Old English documents of this kind, most but not all of them dating from the pre-Conquest period. Extracts from the three *libri vitae*, together with excerpts from numerous kalendars and monastic obituaries are edited here, each text being backed by palaeographical and textual commentary.

All the personal names found in these documents are listed, in accordance with the conventions of the school concerned, in a 'lemmatized' index: Germanic names, that is to say, are grouped under conventionalized Common Germanic forms of the 'themes' or elements from which they are formed; names of other origin are entered under standardized heads. A check-list of actual spellings facilitates reference to the relevant lemmata.

The name-vocabulary recorded, mainly dating from the tenth and eleventh centuries, forms a most valuable supplement to that known from the pre-existing repertoires, making this a work that no student either of Old English personal names or of late Anglo-Saxon history can afford to disregard.

A NEW PLACE-NAMES BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jeffrey Spittal and John Field

In the spring of 1985, the British Association for Local History let it be known that a series of handbooks was being planned. To the suggestion of a bibliography of place-names literature the chairman of the publications committee gave tentative agreement, as it appeared that this was the sort of guide the Association wished to place in the hands of local historians.¹ It was agreed that the geographical limits should be set at the boundaries of the Association's area of interest. Without undue arguments about the definition of the word 'British' or what constitutes the United Kingdom, it was soon decided that works to be listed were those on the place-names of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands. A general starting-date of 1920 was set, with generous overlaps for deserving cases.

As opportunity offered, notices were sent to the newsletters of various organizations. They were duly published and copied by the newsletters of yet other organizations. There began to come in sporadic replies of varying degrees of helpfulness, but these died down after a month or two, presumably as the various leaflets which had stimulated them began to go out of currency. Many initial replies were useful in laying to rest misgivings about how 'technical' should be the choice of works to present to 'local historians and others'. The conclusion was that the range should extend as far as might be indicated by reliable sources of information, and it became clear that publications from abroad would have to be listed, including many in languages other than those of the United Kingdom. There were some pleasant surprises when other bibliographers generously sent drafts of relevant sections of their work or when toponymists provided details of their own writings.

Amongst the bibliographical records searched, *Onoma* must receive first mention for its period of coverage (1950-), both before and after the publication of the 'Roberts Bibliography' of 1959,¹ from which the most important items of enduring usefulness have been retained and a few important omissions made good. The *Linguistic Bibliography*, now published at The Hague by the Permanent International Committee of Linguists, has also been of great value especially because of its analytical indexing of conference papers and Festschriften, as well as for its many references to reviews. Its full details of publishers, dates and places of publication, as well as its recorded details of conferences published as parts of a regular periodical (but never, it seems, the same one twice running), are

uniquely useful. The *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature* is also useful for reviews although of recent years it has become more and more dominated by American topics. *The Year's Work in English Studies* was also searched from its inception, as were all those other reference works so far mentioned. Last but certainly not least came the bibliographies in *JEPNS* (1968-69 and onwards) and in *Nomina* (1977 and onwards). The practice in *Nomina* of publicising work in progress and then following up this information with publication details has been most useful in checking otherwise rather elusive bibliographical particulars.

For works whose coverage is limited to the publications of one country only, reference was made to two Library Association serial bibliographies: the *British National Bibliography* (1951-); and the *Subject Index to Periodicals* (1914-), retitled *The British Humanities Index* from 1962. Neither contains anything of exceptional importance which cannot be traced elsewhere, but, since the aim of the new bibliography is to give detailed local coverage in a form not hitherto attempted, the possibility could not be ignored of lesser works published in the provinces being recorded in the first, and details of articles in county society *Transactions, Proceedings*, or other publications being given in the second.

However, not 'everything' – contrary to the popular myth – is to be found in the *BNB*, and we estimated that just under 10% of approximately 500 entries had not been recorded in a published bibliography. Moreover, the *Subject Index to Periodicals* was unpredictably changeable in its roster of journals scanned (its successor is less so but not totally guiltless). It was because of the resulting discrepancies that we undertook a comprehensive canvass of all the principal public libraries in Great Britain. We have therefore every reason to thank local studies librarians for information about these otherwise elusive publications. Moreover, 'British' in both titles has come in practice to mean 'in the English language', an occlusion of viewpoint not uncommon today.

Repair of this deficiency so far as Scotland is concerned can be made from the Gaelic references in the *Bibliography of Scotland*, but the full bibliographical chronology for north of the Border starts with two good retrospective bibliographies which include name material: C. S. Terry's *Catalogue of the Publications of Scottish Historical and Kindred Clubs and Societies ... 1780-1908*; and a book with the same title by C. Mateson bringing the coverage up to 1927. In 1917 Sir Arthur Mitchell and C. G. Cash published two volumes of *Contributions to the Bibliography of Scottish Topography*, the second volume of which contains seven pages of place-name references. This compilation was

continued by P. S. Hancock's *Bibliography of Works Relating to Scotland 1916-1950*, published in 1960. In turn that was succeeded by an unpublished slip-index maintained for the next 25 years by the National Library of Scotland. In 1978 the National Library issued the first volume of its annual *Bibliography of Scotland*, covering the literature of 1976 and onwards.

Unfortunately, we must record that George Walker's *Bibliography of the Place-Names of Scotland*, Royal Scottish Bibliographical Society (Edinburgh, 1945) is deficient in nearly every point of bibliographical detail, an omission not satisfactorily compensated by the imaginative inclusion of one or two quite spurious titles. His rule seems to have been: 'Never cross-reference, but put in twice, using a different title each time'.

Bibliotheca Celtica, the essential Welsh support for balancing the Anglophile structure of the *British National Bibliography*, has been examined from its beginning (in 1910), and so have the irregular issues of the *Subject Index to Welsh Periodicals*, which began life in 1934, just after the appearance in the *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies* (vols. V and VI) of two selective but copious bibliographies, compiled by T. Jones, of Welsh place-name studies, which include references to eisteddfodau publications. *Studia Celtica* has, since its inception in 1966, published lists of books and articles on all aspects of Welsh studies, taken from journals received at the National Library of Wales. *The Subject Index to Welsh Periodicals* was not published between 1956 and 1967, so the Celtic sections of the *Onoma* bibliography have been used to make good that gap, along with the second edition of the *Bibliography of the History of Wales* and its four supplements issued during the decade 1962-72. Our coverage of material for Wales has been much augmented through the kindness of Professor J. E. Caerwyn Williams, who has allowed us to see proofs of relevant parts of the forthcoming bibliography of works in the Welsh language, to be published by the University of Wales Press.

It is sad to report that both the *Subject Index to Welsh Periodicals* and *Bibliotheca Celtica* seem doomed to extinction after they have reported the publications of – significantly, for readers of George Orwell – 1984. However, the maintenance of an index to such material as is covered by the *Subject Index* has been in the capable hands of Mr B. Ll. James, until recently the Keeper of the Salisbury Library in University College, Cardiff. What is more, his colleague Mr Brynmor Jones in the Cardiff Central Library has marked up entries in a copy of E. Davies's *Gazetteer of Welsh Place-Names*, giving references to the articles contributed to *Y Cymro* between 1968 and 1970 by the late Professor Melville Richards.

The onomastic literature for the Isle of Man is quite small in compass, and compactly cross-referenced within itself by notes at the end of articles. Such a use of references is not a safe inclusive way of proceeding for larger areas, but with the Isle of Man it has served well. For the Channel Islands material help was given by the local public libraries, but we have particularly to thank Dr Richard Coates, who readily appreciated the bibliographical problems to be solved.

Seven 'state-of-the-art' reviews have been consulted, with varying results of contributory benefit: R. E. Zachrisson (*Englische Studien*, 1927-28), H. Marcus (*Archiv für das Studium der Neueren Sprachen und Literaturen*, 1936), Bruce Dickins (*Antiquity*, 1961), F. R. Hamlin (*Revue Internationale d'Onomastique*, 1962 and 1963), two papers by Dr Gillian Fellows-Jensen (*Northern History*, 1973 and 1977), and an article by Dr Margaret Gelling (*Local Historian*, 1974). The last-named periodical has been examined, for locally published material, from its first volume onwards, and *Local History* likewise. Selective searches have been made of the files of *Scottish Local History* and the *Scots Magazine*, which have sometimes contained notices of suitable works. The published personal bibliographies of such prolific authors as Eilert Ekwall or Melville Richards are to be found (sometimes after an arduous search), in Festschriften or in institutional transactions containing the writers' obituaries. Our own searches have resulted in a microbibliography of such enumerations, and our further checks have established minor inaccuracies in some of them. It has not always been possible for us to unravel the complexities of some Continental periodical publications; in our own listings we have provided as much information as was necessary to find the journal concerned in libraries we visited.

The bibliographical tools designed for historians and archaeologists, *Writings on British History* (1937-) and the *Annual Bibliography of British and Irish History* (1976-), together with *Archaeological Bibliography* (1947-) and *British Archaeological Abstracts* (1968-), yielded some few references, but by the time they were searched much of the material was being found for the second or third time. This may have indicated a working sufficiency, if not absolute completion – something indeed always unattainable in an investigation of this kind.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science was visited to check toponymic papers in the volumes produced to mark their provincial meetings (Roberts did not do this for their pre-1959 publications). A number of other organizations have been contacted by personal visits and written enquiries, enabling the compilers to see and record a number of small but useful

contributions to the literature which might otherwise not have been brought to the attention of interested readers. Such omissions as there may be in the new bibliography are not due to lack of effort to obtain the necessary details, or of generous good will encountered among all those from whom this information has been sought.

The new bibliography has been given the provisional title of *A Reader's Guide to British Place-Names*. An introduction surveys the progress of place-name studies (before and after 1920) in the various countries of the United Kingdom, offers some guidelines on the sources and techniques of name-study, and briefly explains the arrangement of the material in the work itself. Multiple access to the information in the bibliography is made possible by the categorizing of the contents in topical and regional sections (for each of the country divisions) and in the local groupings, using normally the 'ancient county' names as headings, with further subdivisions under town and village-names where appropriate. Comments have been provided for some entries, but cross-referencing has been kept to a minimum. Additional aids to the reader are provided by the indexes of authors (who number more than 800), of places, and of place-name elements specifically mentioned in the titles of listed works.

NOTES

¹ Publication, by Paul Watkins of Stamford, Lincs., is expected in late 1989.

² R. J. Roberts, 'Bibliography of writings on English place and personal names', *Onoma* VIII (1958-59), 1-71.