

CONFERENCE REPORT

COUNCIL FOR NAME STUDIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND TWENTIETH ANNUAL STUDY CONFERENCE - 1988

The XXth Annual Study Conference organized by the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland was held from Friday 25 to Monday 28 March 1988 at Neuadd Martin, University College of Wales, Swansea. The programme of papers was arranged by Dr Hywel Wyn Owen (Y Coleg Normal, Bangor), with special emphasis on the work of younger scholars; he is to be congratulated on the variety and liveliness of the weekend's presentations.

Proceedings began on the Friday evening, when Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones (Bangor) welcomed Professor Emeritus Stephen J. Williams (B.A., University of Wales, 1914), an eminent grammarian and editor, in collaboration with J. Enoch Powell, of a collection of early Welsh laws. Professor Gwynedd Pierce (Cardiff) then gave a talk on toponymical patterns in the hinterlands of Swansea and Cardiff and their implications for settlement history.

Saturday morning opened with exemplification, first by Mr Tomos Roberts (Bangor) and then by Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones, of Old and Middle English elements adopted into Welsh place-naming. Next, Mr John Field and Mr Jeffrey Spittal reported on their forthcoming bibliography of English toponymical works published since 1920, and Mr Spittal related *contretemps* attendant upon tracing some rarer items. Dr Mark Bateson (London) then discussed spelling variations from a Papal record concerning the Welsh Marches. After lunch, Dr Jan Gerchow (Freiburg) described his work on the personal names preserved in Anglo-Saxon commemorative documents, explaining the computerized techniques developed by the Münster-Freiburg teams of anthroponymists and prosopographers. Dr John Insley (Berlin) surveyed the medieval distribution of the CG personal name *Amalric*, OFr *Amaury*. After tea, Mrs Mary Higham and Mrs Mary Atkin each gave a splendidly illustrated talk on microtoponyms recurrent in northern England; and Miss Jennifer Scherr (Bristol) reported on the survey of Somerset place-names. The evening session comprised two papers on Scottish themes: instancing some forms from the Hebrides, Dr Richard Cox (Glasgow) argued that place-names could never be 'hybrid' *stricto sensu*; and Dr Lindsay Macgregor (St Andrews) discussed some occurrences in Northern and Western Scotland of the Scand compound element *kirkjubólstaðr* 'church-farm'.

On Sunday morning Professor E.D. Lawson (State University of New York, Fredonia) surveyed socio-psychological studies of personal-naming, Miss Jan Ellis (Durham) considered the Co. Durham place-name *Chopwell*, and Mrs Joy Jenkyns demonstrated, with computer-generated and computer-mailed handouts, some applications of her computer-searchable corpus of Old English boundary-clauses. The session concluded with an informal discussion of computer techniques.

The afternoon's tour of the Gower Peninsula was backed by a 'toponomastic' compiled by Professor Pierce, and enlivened by a running commentary, which brought out the historical and personal as well as the onomastic interest of the area, from Dr Prys Morgan (Swansea). The ritual cream-tea was taken at Rhosili, where one strolled in the spring sunshine and considered, whether geologically or aesthetically, the Worm's Head. On the return journey a brief tour, melancholy in its revelation of how little of Swansea's long past now survives, was made of the host city itself; the final lap partly followed the route of one of the world's earliest railways, founded in 1802 on windpower but, when that proved unidirectional, converted first to equine and then to steam modes of traction.

After dinner, the closing session began with an interpretation by Dr Alexander Rumble (Manchester) of the OE specific seen in place-names such as *Bedfont* and *Bedwell*. The conference ended with a plea from Dr Denise Kenyon for greater emphasis to be given to topography as a basis for place-name chronology.

C.C.

REVIEWS

KENNETH CAMERON, *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire, Part 1: The Place-Names of the County of the City of Lincoln*, EPNS LVIII, English Place-Name Society, Nottingham, xlv + 236 pp., no price stated.

A very warm welcome is due to this volume, the first instalment of a survey of the second largest historic county to match the series of Yorkshire volumes which the EPNS have already completed. Indeed Lincolnshire, which has suffered some neglect considering its historical importance, is likely to benefit from the survey's late start. It is in the expert hands of the Society's General Editor and Director, and the advance of place-name studies allows - and demands - greater detail, accuracy and scholarship than ever before. Whereas the city of York was allotted only part of the East Riding volume, Lincoln has here a volume almost to itself. The coverage in fact is confined to the city itself and to four parishes (Bracebridge, Branston, Canwick and Waddington) which from 1466 to 1832 were included with it as the County of the City. Every district, street, major house or church, and even almost every inn and every field-name, is included. The camera-ready copy is not so attractive to the eye as the traditional EPNS print, but it ensures greater accuracy.

The medieval place-names of Lincoln had previously been subject to a detailed analysis by Sir Francis Hill in his *Medieval Lincoln*, drawing on the expertise of Sir Frank Stenton; Hill in turn encouraged Cameron in beginning the present and much larger survey. Cameron himself has searched a huge volume of printed and unprinted sources, as the bibliography testifies, and has been much helped by Dr Kathleen Major with her thorough knowledge of the Lincoln archives. It is therefore unlikely that many more names, or early references, will come to light.

Lincoln was, of course, one of the Five Towns of the Danelaw, and the common use of *gate* for 'street' reflects that. However, Stenton pointed out forty years ago (in a letter cited on p. 36 of Hill's *Medieval Lincoln*) that many street-names were of Old or Middle English type, in marked contrast to 'the Scandinavian, and indeed the Norwegian, local names which abound in York'. Cameron's survey generally reinforces this impression. Since I have myself surveyed the medieval street-names of York (in *York Historian*, II [1978]), perhaps it is worth commenting on the similarity and contrasts between the two great Danelaw cities.

There are at Lincoln several close parallels to York names, but very few of a clearly Scandinavian character beyond the suffix *-gate*. Both cities have or had a Bedern, a Finkle Street, a Gillygate (St Giles Gate), a Holgate, a Hungate, a Micklegate, a Newgate, a Silver Lane or Street, a Stonegate (*Staingate* at Lincoln) and a Werdyke. Both had a district or street named from badgers or hawkers (Baggerholm at Lincoln), and Carholm at Lincoln may parallel York's Cargate, though whereas York's may derive from ON *kjarr* 'marsh', Lincoln's on this occasion does seem to derive from a Scandinavian personal name, *Kari*. Otherwise several of the parallels are of a very general topographical type common in many towns; and furthermore, some of the Lincoln examples disappeared early, as though they became unintelligible. Whereas York still has its Micklegate and Stonegate, at Lincoln the former gave way to 'High Street' in the sixteenth century and the latter is not recorded after the thirteenth. Furthermore, Lincoln has a Danesgate the name of which does seem to mean 'Danes' Street'; such a name would be inconceivable at York.

Some of the early district names at Lincoln are as interesting as its street-names, and particularly that of Wigford, the suburb south of the Witham. Cameron notes that it means the 'ford by the wfc' and draws attention to the frequency of wfc names referring to Roman sites, but he does not add that it is almost certainly one of a group of wfc's from the Middle Saxon period of urban

revival, making it a parallel to Ipswich, *Hamwic* (Southampton), *Eoforwic* (York) and other *emporia* on both sides of the North Sea. More could be made of the name of the Bedern, first recorded about 1160 and meaning 'oratory or chapel' (p.51). Thename also occurs at Beverley, Ripon and York in conjunction with major ecclesiastical establishments, but Lincoln's is apparently the earliest-recorded of the four. In contrast, the important Jewish community at Lincoln seems to have left no trace in street-names, with the doubtful exception of Colegate, whereas York has its Jewbury and its Jubbergate.

I have dwelt on the medieval names, which are generally of greater value as independent evidence, but it should be added that Cameron's thorough and meticulous survey covers stree-names of all periods down to 1868, and that he amasses much evidence for minor lanes, fields, and even individual buildings - not only churches but private houses and inns. I noticed no omissions, although since the nineteenth-century Foss Street is defined only as 'leading to Fossedye', that interesting canal of Roman origin should perhaps have been included. Some of the derivations given, in the light of recent scholarship, are of relevance for many other towns; Finkle Street, for example, which occurs in towns and villages all over the northern Danelaw, has never been satisfactorily explained, but here Ekwall's suggestion of an obscene name for a lovers' lane is favoured.

Altogether, Cameron's is a most impressive achievement, of great value to both place-name scholars and urban historians.

D. M. PALLISER

GILLIS KRISTENSSON, *A Survey of Middle English Dialects 1290-1350: The West Midland Counties*, Skifter utgivna av Vetenskapssocieteten i Lund: Publications of the New Society of Letters at Lund LXXVIII, Lund University Press: Lund 1987, xvi + 247 pp., 15 maps, no price stated.

This is the second instalment of *A Survey of Middle English Dialects 1290-1350*. It follows the same author's *A Survey of Middle English Dialects 1290-1350: The Six Northern Counties and Lincolnshire* (Lund Studies in English XXXV Lund, 1967, xxii + 299 pp., 33 maps) of which the most notable reviews are usefully listed in the present work (pp. ix-x, notes 2-5).

The abstract summarizes the scope of the work:

'The appearance of all OE phonemes and sequences of phonemes is examined, special emphasis being laid on OE *a/o* before nasals, OE *ē/ā* (WGerm *ā*), OE *ȳ*, OE *ēo*, and OE initial *f-*, *s-*, */θ-/*. The result of the examination is a delineation of the West Midland dialect area and a division of this area into a northern and a southern half. The examination also affords an approximate divide between the settlements of the Angles and the Saxons in Old English times.'

Like its predecessor, this study is based on the spellings of place-names and personal names recorded in the Lay Subsidy Rolls. The problems arising from the use of this source are discussed at pp. ix-xi. This reviewer especially regrets two circumstances: that there are no Subsidy Rolls for Cheshire, and that his own linguistic notes on the spellings of Cheshire place-names were not already more freely available to his friend Gillis Kristensson twenty years ago. At pp. xi-xiii there is a sympathetic appraisal of C. F. Cubbin's study, in *Transactions of the Philological Society* 1981, 67-117, of the dialect evidence in the Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey. So the author has done his best. Yet the Cheshire material remains awkward. It is presented out of topographical order in every section, on account of its sources being felt to be anomalous. For lack of Lay Subsidy Rolls relating to this Palatinate County, Dr Kristensson has used the following printed editions and calendars: *The Chartulary of Chester Abbey*, Chetham Society

LXXIX (1920) and LXXXII (1923); *The Selected Rolls of the Chester City Courts*, Chetham Society, 3rd series, II (1950); the Ecclesiastical Subsidy Roll in *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae A.D. 1291*, London, Record Commission, 1802; and *The Talbot Deeds 1200-1682*, ed. E. E. Barker, Record Society for ... Lancashire and Cheshire CXCI (1948).

He specifies the criteria which define the ME West Midland dialect as follows: 1. OE *i*-mutated *a* before *l*-groups became OE Mercian *æ* and is represented by ME West Mercian *a*, in an area comprising Lancashire south of the Ribble, a small part of the south-west of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Cheshire, West Derbyshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire west of Severn; 2. OE *a/o* before nasals is represented by ME *o* in an area comprising Lancashire south of the Ribble, Cheshire, Derbyshire except the easternmost tip, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire (map 4).

Dr Kristensson speaks of the influence of his material upon the analysis:

'Historically, the isophone for ME */a/* from *i*-mutated *a* before *l*-groups is important in that it reflects an Old English dialect boundary (and tribal boundary). But when establishing dialect areas we generally look at the language situation from a synchronic point of view. From this angle the isophone for */o/* before nasals is more important than that for */a/* in the */walle/* group. Words with */o/* before nasals were more frequent than words with */a/* from *i*-mutated *a* before *l*-groups: in the present material the descendant of OE *man/mon* yields 1,506 forms and that of OE *wæll(e)* 478 forms. Apart from OE *wæll(e)*, few words contain the reflex of OE *i*-mutated *a* before *l*-groups, whereas OE *a/o* before nasals appears in a great many words. Being more frequent than */a/* in the */walle/* group, ME */o/* before nasals had a more prominent position in the spoken language. It was the most conspicuous feature of the West Midlands (and still is), and it seems warranted to take the */o/* isophone as the boundary for the West Midland dialect area.' (p. 212).

From my notes on *The Place-Names of Cheshire* (EPNS), it appears that OE *o/a* before nasals is represented in Cheshire place-name spellings by ME *a* 1086 GDB, *o* late-12th century and early 13th, *au* 12th, *ou*, *ow*, *so* 13th and 14th, and *u* 13th; before *mb* by ME *a* to 13th, *o* from 14th, *u* late 14th (Kristensson's remarks, at p. 28 lines 13-14, on *Lambelachelond* can only refer to the fact that this is in a fourteenth-century cartulary text of a grant dated 1265 and 1291: see *PNCheshire, Part III*, EPNS XLVI, 247); before *nd*, by ME *a* in DB and 12th, *o* 1200, *ou* 13th; before *ng* by *a* 12th, *u* 13th, *au* 14th. The evidence for ME *-ung* < *ang* is not restricted to Gloucestershire after all: Cheshire place-names in *lang*, *hangra*, *banke*, *furlang*, and *mangere* exhibit this characteristic in 13th century spellings.

The discussion does not extend, with reference to OE *hamm/homm*, to the question of whether ME *home* (<OE *homme*, locative dative) might be confused with ME *holme* (<late OE *holm*, *ON* *holmr*).

In Cheshire place-names the characteristic ME representation of OE *i*-mutated *a* before *l*-groups is not unmixed. It is usually represented by ME *a* in place-names derived from *Ælf-* (*p*) or the elements *fælg* (*felg*), *wælisc* (*welisc*), *wælm* (*welm*), *wællere* (*wellere*).

In place-names from OE *well(-a, -e)*, *wæll(-a, -e)*, *wiell(-a, -e)* the vowel is represented by ME *e* (GDB Wirswall III, 112,¹ Heswall IV, 276; late-12th x 13th Denhall IV, 220, *Wellfurlang* IV, 115; and in 19 other place-names recorded before 1400) and by ME *a* (late 12th x early 13th Wirswall, Heswall, *Rughshagwall* II, 160, *Caldewallemor* IV, 115, Crabwall IV, 169, Bradwall II, 265, *Stocwalhurst* III, 239, *Hulwalles sti* IV, 70, *Caldwells Fd* II, 100, Hulme Walfield II, 302; and 76 other place-names recorded before 1400).

The vowel in OE *helde*, **hælde*, *hiede* is always represented by ME *e* in

Cheshire place-name spellings (1200 *Hield* II, 102; 13th *Healds* V, 111, *Heald Green* I, 244).

Another characteristic feature of the ME West Midland dialect was the place-name element ME *-warthyn*, *-wardin* (<OE *worthign*). The map of this feature, map 7, omits the Cheshire place-name *Carden*, IV, 53 (*-wardyn* 14th) and the half-dozen medieval Cheshire *worthign* names which do not display *-war-*spellings.

As to the ME development of OE *æ/ē* (<Germ *ā*), Kristensson observes:

There is no doubt that Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire and Leicestershire were *ē*-areas and that Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire were *æ*-areas, v. map 6' (p. 51).

The spellings for Cheshire place-names in such elements as *mæd*, *wæl*, *bæl*, *æl*, *brēr*, *brērig*, *-mæ(r)p*, *wær*, *læs*, *stræt*, *wēt*, *læge* and *græg* present a less simple picture. They represent OE *æ* by ME *e* before *d* (13th), *l* (11th), *r* (GDB), *s* (13th) and *t* (12th). So Cheshire lay, in fact, in an *a/e* area; and although the *stræt* place-names in Cheshire usually end up with *-e-* spellings (e.g., *Stretton* II, 121, *Stretton* IV, 56, and also *Strettelegh* II, 61, *Strettle* II, 52), nevertheless the nineteenth-century *Stratton* II, 26 may be significant.

In its organization and its content, this book, like its predecessor, is the sort of survey which ought to have been produced for every county in the English Place-Name Society's *Survey of English Place-Names*, had not that enterprise long since tended to become more urgently concerned with the production of evidence for the history of the Anglo-Saxon settlement than with that for the history of the English language. The draft of such a thing, in the much delayed notes for the final part of my *Place-Names of Cheshire*, owes much to Dr Kristensson's advice and example. This reviewer is much beholden to him for the tact and courtesy of his handling of the situation *vis-à-vis* Cheshire, since one might say that the delay of the last part of the English Place-Name Society's work on that county must have been less than helpful to the preparation of this section of Gillis Kristensson's survey. Yet, it appears that it would not have made much difference. There *are* other counties in the West Midlands, and *they* do have Subsidy Rolls.

JOHN McNEAL DODGSON

¹ Cheshire place-names are referred to *Part* and page of *PNCheshire* (EPNS XLIV-XLVII and LIV).

WORK IN PROGRESS

I – current 1988; II – in prospect

GENERAL

INSLEY, J., (*Bad Königshofen*): I – three articles nearing completion ('The Lay Subsidy Rolls and English dialect boundaries'; 'The personal name *Amalric* and Anglo-Continental relations'; 'Some Lancashire place-name etymologies').

SMART, V.J., (*St Andrews*): II – preparation of an index to Vols 21-40 of the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles*, with cross-referencing to the index to Vols 1-20 (SCBI 28).

TOponymy

CEDERLÖF, M. (University of Uppsala): I – 'English place-names in *-stōw*' (thesis supervised by Dr K.I. SANDRED).

EVANS, G.G., *et alii* (Powys): I – a survey of all the place-names, including field-names, of the former Montgomeryshire.

EVERITT, A. (late of the University of Leicester): I – *Vestiges of the Wilderness*: an attempt to determine the areas and extent of post-primary colonization of woodland and moorland, with reference mainly to the Lowland zone before c.1200, on the basis of topographical and toponymical evidence.

KENYON, D. (Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies): I – 'Notes on Lancashire place-names II: the later names' (article accepted for publication in *JEPNS*); II – a survey of Lancashire place-names, including the compilation of a data-base (for which funding is being sought).

MILLS, A.D. (London): I – a short general dictionary of English place-names, commissioned by the Oxford University Press.

WAUGH, D. (Edinburgh): II – further work on the place-names of Shetland.

Compiled by C. Clark and M. Bateson

I. BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND DICTIONARIES

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COUTTS, see also CUBITT.

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FORDE, see CUBITT.

KÜNZEL, see BLOK.

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VERHOEF, see BLOK.

II. ANCILLARY DISCIPLINES

(a) Historical Studies

ARNOLD, C.J., *An Archaeology of the Early Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* (London, 1988).BARKER, K., 'Pen, Ilchester and Yeovil: a study in the landscape history and archaeology of south-east Somerset', *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society CXXX* (1986), 11-45 [cites place-name evidence *passim*].BARNES, F.A., 'Land tenure and landscape in Llanynghenedd, Anglesey', *Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club* 1988, 31-114 [lists field-names].BIDDLE, M., *et alii*, eds, *First Millennium Papers*, BAR (Oxford, 1988).BIRD, D.G., and J. BIRD, *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540* (1988).BLACK, E.W., *The Roman Villas of South-East England*, BAR British Series (Oxford, 1987).BLUNT, C.E., with B.H.I.H. STEWART and C.S.S. LYON, *Coinage in Tenth-Century England from Edward the Elder to Edgar's Reform* (British Academy, 1987) [complements SCBI XXXIV].

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