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Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland

Twenty-third Annual Study Conference

The twenty-third annual study conference organized by the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Beaumont Hall, University of Leicester, from 5th to 8th April 1991. The programme of papers was drawn up by Mr Richard McKinley and Dr David Postles of the Department of English Local History of that university. Proceedings began on the Friday evening with a talk by Dr Barrie Cox (Nottingham) on 'Aspects of early Rutland', in which he argued that the pre-1974 county continued a political unit that had existed with essentially identical frontiers since the Iron Age.

On the Saturday, Dr Ann Dornier (Leicester) spoke on 'Aspects of the use of Latin *vicus* as a place-name element in mediaeval France', including the very great variety of its forms. Mrs Mary Higham (Clitheroe) on 'The early fourteenth-century boundary of Burton Chase', remarked that those who, in 1307, described that hundred-mile boundary were concerned especially with crossing-points into and out of the area. Mrs Margery Tranter (Leicester) on 'Name, race and terrain: a Midlands frontier explored', saw the Derbyshire-Leicestershire boundary as reflecting an ancient Mercian provincial one, but explored *inter alia* modifications made to it in the nineteenth century. Dr Gillian Fellows-Jensen (Copenhagen) on 'Place-names in *-thorp*: in retrospect and in turmoil', examined recurrent place-names in that Danish element, including half a dozen qualified by ON *gauker*, 'cuckoo', and the curiously uneven proportions as qualifiers of 'east, west, south, north' (in descending order; 'east' was also the main compass direction with Dr Dornier's *vici*). A discussion was held concerning the transition from the Council for Name Studies to a broader-based Society. Dr Della Hooke (Birmingham) spoke on 'Charters and the landscape', illustrating with slides the relation of modern landscape patterns to ones which she detects in Anglo-Saxon charter boundaries. Dr Richard Coates (Sussex) argued for '*-ingas*' as the plural of singular *-ing*' in some of its occurrences, exploring a variety of possible relations between lexical items and proper names with the

suffix *-ing(-)*, though admitting that there were some problems with grammatical gender.

On the Sunday, Professor Bill Nicolaisen (Binghamton, New York) spoke on 'Scottish place-names as surnames', making creative use of telephone directories. Dr Peter Warner (Cambridge) on 'Domesday freemen and the naming of East Anglian tenements', found that mediaeval peasant families migrated a great deal between villages, but most did not move far. Mr Peter Kitson (Birmingham) on 'Quantifying qualifiers in Old English local names', showed that the relative frequencies of different qualifiers, both in themselves and with particular substantive elements, yields significant information about their meaning, in what was already perceived by its inhabitants as an 'old' countryside. The afternoon coach excursion through East Leicestershire began in heavy rain, which cut down what should have been forty-mile visibility from Burrough Hill fort to a few furlongs; a select band of mediaevalists and geographers, not put off by this, walked the circuit of the fort. Skies cleared for a spectacular tea and Anne of Cleve's house in Melton Mowbray. The final general discussion ranged from the usefulness to name-study of the telephone directories in various countries, via the arcane bureaucracy of changing one's surname in Denmark and the significance or otherwise of hyphens, to the fluidity of colour-names within and between languages, especially Celtic ones.

P.R.K.

Kenneth Hurlstone Jackson, 1909–1991

Kenneth Hurlstone Jackson, Professor of Celtic Studies at the University of Edinburgh from 1950 until 1979, who died on February 20th, 1991, was both a founder member of the Council of Name Studies and one of the foremost Celtic scholars of his generation. Others may have matched him in detailed knowledge of a particular aspect, but few could challenge his breadth, in language, history and literature, from Old Irish to modern, including the Gaelic of Scotland, Nova Scotia and the Isle of Man, and from Old Welsh to include Cornish and Breton. Few students today will have the privilege of analogies effortlessly drawn from all the surviving literatures, or the development of one postulated sound in Common Celtic traced to its forms in six modern languages.

Although best known later as a linguist, Kenneth Jackson's early publications were on literature, such as his *Studies in Early Celtic Nature Poetry* which came out in 1935. The reasons why he, trained as a classicist, changed his allegiance to the Celts, are revealed in the comments in his book of translations, *A Celtic Miscellany* (1951). This book was intended to demonstrate the breadth (across six languages) and the time-span (from the eighth century to the nineteenth) of Celtic literatures to the interested general reader, and became the first taste of the Celtic literatures to be available in Penguin. He felt an obligation in the preface to this to say that Celtic literature was not 'mystical' (which to him meant woolly): 'in fact the Celtic literatures are about as little given to mysticism or sentimentality as it is possible to be', and he quotes, with approval, Whitley Stokes's comment that Irish literature is 'sharply defined in outline . . . pitiless in logic'. In the introductions to the sections, as well as the Celtic imagination, he praises their close observation: 'the high sunlight of the Celtic vision', 'a very clear sense of colour . . . often minor varieties of a colour'. This clarity of observation Kenneth Jackson shared.

In his classes in Edinburgh, most of his comment and question would be on matters linguistic, but he would allow the class pauses for silent appreciation of the texts read as literature. Lectures were always in the afternoon, so that the freshness of the morning could be spent on his own research. He was a demanding teacher, with little patience

with badly-prepared work. He always wore his black gown for teaching, and although he was not otherwise physically imposing, his grey eyes flashed alarmingly when students failed to keep up to his rigorous standards. However, he was also not without a sense of humour, so that a modern Gaelic speaker who mistranslated the legendary Queen Maeve's 'purple cloak', *brot corcra*, as her 'oatmeal porridge', *brot coirce*, provoked laughter rather than anger. He had complete confidence in his own scholarly opinions, as when noting on an essay, 'On this point see my article in X, which is generally deemed to be the authoritative account'. More typically, he was ever-courteous and anxious to treat his students properly: sometimes the students had to take him in hand, arguing that, if it might be improper for him to lead young people into a pub for refreshment while out on a field trip, he would surely not be at fault if they invited him! Although all too often attended by the students in a state of boorish nervousness, an evening of hospitality in Professor and Mrs Jackson's home was always provided for them every year.

He had a breadth of humanity that was not always recognised: he was considerate to students in genuine difficulties, and was always ready to commend the individual talents of other scholars, even when he criticised their failings. Nor did he only respect the scholarship of those university-trained like himself. He went to learn modern Irish from the people of the Great Blasket in the heady days when many future professors of Celtic learned to speak Irish there, and found also a living oral story-telling tradition. He enjoyed with Peig Sayers the international folktale, where, as he put it in his book on *The International Popular Tale and Early Welsh Tradition* (1961), 'the king answers his own front door bell and the queen is familiar with the herds of pigs', and magic is 'as normal as Cinderella's pumpkin'.

He admired the intellectual calibre and feats of memory of the tradition bearers he met: 'they were not in the habit of pigeon-holing knowledge in the form of written notes and forgetting it until it is wanted again, as we are'. Later, he spent much time on field research, in Nova Scotia, the Isle of Man and the Highlands of Scotland, but he kept in touch with the people in Kerry, and, when writing on the Gaelic folktale, remembered one Hebridean crofter and teller of hero-tales as 'a man whom I should be proud to be allowed to call my

friend' ('The Folktale in Gaelic Scotland', *Proceedings of the Scottish Anthropological & Folklore Society*, 4, 1952).

It was as a meticulous instructor on Celtic linguistics that British place-name studies knew him best, through his formidable *Language and History in Early Britain* (1953); through articles on individual names, such as that of 'Leeds' (*Antiquity*, 20 and 21, 1946-47); and the list of Celtic elements in English place-names, giving details of not only the Brittonic elements, but their exact form at the date British and Anglo-Saxon were in contact, that he produced for the guidance of the English Place-name Society in the first volume of their journal. Although not a regular attender, he always sent apologies to Council meetings, and retained his interest in accurate place-name etymology to the last.

However, he did not reject the folkloric aspect of name studies. There were rumours of a very amusing after-dinner speech he gave on rarely-mentioned parts of the body in place-names. He recounted with enjoyment a Scots story of how the Scottish isle of Arran got its name because there a witch, who was flying overhead carrying rocks in her apron, looked down and found they had *a' run*; or how the Gaelic-speaking woman who had forgotten to replace the stone on the well looked back, saw the water of Loch Ness in its place, and said, 'There's a loch there now!' (*Tha loch a nis ann!*); or even the Gaelic explorers who saw their first house in Nova Scotia at Antigonish: *An taigh a nis*, 'The house now!'

Another of his early publications was on the delightful international popular tale 'The Country of Curious Names', where (in a Welsh version) the well-schooled servant cries out to rouse the household, '*Mistir, mistir, dowch lawr o'r siercin-siercin trw dipin-dapw! Ma Cwcu-lwrw wedi rhoi Mawntin Iago yn ffrigis-ffragws!*', which translates more prosaically as 'Master, Master, come downstairs from bed! The cat has set the barn ablaze!' (*Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, 7, 1935).

May his inspiration and memory long remain warm among those whom he taught.

Kay Muhr
Northern Ireland Place-Name Project
Queen's University, Belfast.

Cecily Clark, 1926–1992

With the death of Cecily Clark on March 26th 1992, this Society has lost one of its best scholars and strongest supporters, and a delightful friend and companion. For the last few years she had been the main editor of *Nomina*, overseeing its physical production as well as taking overall charge of the contents and arrangement of the volumes, and contributing essential items such as the Bibliography and the inimitable *Nugae Onomasticae*.

Cecily Clark was born in London in 1926. Her parents, who had met in India, were not academic, and she was the first of her family on either side to go to university. Her father had been in the army for much of his life, and latterly a civil servant, her mother a lady's companion. As a teenager she stayed behind in London when her school was evacuated during the war; it has been suggested that her sense of security was permanently affected by her experiences in the London bombing. For lack of any other suitable school at this time, she attended Pitman's College, where it was to be of particular importance that she had an excellent Swiss teacher of French. In 1945 Cecily was rewarded by winning the Jubilee scholarship to read English at St Hugh's College, Oxford. Here she was disappointed at not being allowed to take the Old French option in the English course, and having to take Old Norse instead; but, in retrospect, it seems to have done her French no harm, and she was later to make good use of her knowledge of Norse as well.

After graduating in 1948 she stayed on to do research, taking a B.Litt. in 1952; her topic was an edition of the Peterborough version of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which perfectly fostered her talent for combining philology with history. Her edition was later published by O.U.P., and a second edition appeared in 1970. After Oxford she held a succession of teaching posts in the English departments in Hull, King's College London, Edinburgh, and finally Aberdeen, where in 1957 she was appointed Lecturer in English Language. Aberdeen is the home town of Gordon Anderson, and he was then working in the university administration there. They had kept in touch after having met at Oxford seven years previously, and in 1959 they married. Six

years later, in 1965, Gordon was appointed to a post in the General Board Office in the University of Cambridge, and they moved south. Gordon's constant help and support were, one suspects, vital to Cecily, and the Society owes him a special debt for his assistance to her over the past few years in handling the editing, production and distribution of *Nomina*, particularly but not only during her final illness.

Cecily never had a University post in Cambridge, but she had connections with several colleges, notably Newnham and Gonville and Caius. It was after the move, whether coincidentally or not, that her work changed direction, and in one way really took off. Up to 1976, her published articles cover a variety of literary and linguistic topics in Old and Middle English; but in 1966 she was awarded a three-year research fellowship at Newnham College to revise her *Peterborough Chronicle*, and in the course of this she became interested in the problems of personal names in England, both Christian names and surnames, before and after the Norman Conquest, and especially consequent upon it. In particular, she became aware of how much they could tell us about the social history and the mixing of peoples at this period. This was a field where research was much needed, but very few had the required combination of skills to do it, and she made it her own. Starting with two articles which appeared in 1976, 'People and Languages in Post-Conquest Canterbury' (*Journal of Medieval History*, 2) and 'Some Early Canterbury Surnames' (*English Studies*, 57), she published a series of articles using personal-name evidence to illuminate this crucial subject.

It is a great pity that she never had permanent post in Cambridge, for she was a conscientious and stimulating teacher. One former pupil warmly remembers her wild and enthusiastic laughter, and at the same time her manner of saying 'Well . . .' in such a way as to make her disapproval quite plain. She also strongly advised this undergraduate not to become over-committed to an 'ancillary' subject (among which, sadly, she had to include essential disciplines such as palaeography and philology), but to stick to a mainstream one for the sake of being employable. One feels, sadly, that she may have been thinking of her own career when giving this advice.

Her unique contribution was due to her talent, already mentioned, for speaking as a philologist to historians, and also from her sound knowledge of the development of both the French and English

languages. In French she was largely self-taught after her schooldays, and she never lived in France; but she had a particular flair for the language. When in France she was liable to be taken for a Belgian. (For years the present writer assumed, from her general bearing, that she must be partly French.) When she went to French evening classes in Aberdeen, the professor was astonished to learn that she had never even been to France, and it was not until 1961 that she first went there, on holiday with Gordon. Only someone combining these areas of competence could have undertaken the work which Cecily embarked upon. The study of personal names in Middle English is full of pitfalls, of a historical, sociological and especially philological kind, and her particular expertise and interests were ideally suited to it. In addition, she brought to her work another trait which made her stand out among her fellow academics, a sound common-sense.

The result was a series of articles of crucial importance for the study of the social consequences of the Norman Conquest—one friend and colleague always hoped that Cecily would write a book entitled *What Happened in 1066?*, and we should all have been the richer if she had lived to do so. Along with this interest went Cecily's regular attendance at the other fixture in her conference year, in addition to that of the Council for Name Studies: the Battle Conference on Anglo-Norman Studies. The bibliography of her writings shows how she has altered the face of this subject, and her recent contributions to the study of place-names too are still being assimilated. The present writer is currently attempting to apply Clark's 'Three Laws of Applied Anthroponymics' (*Nomina* 3, 1979), developed in relation to the situation in England after the Norman Conquest, to the comparable situation in Wales after the English conquest in 1282. There was much more still to be done in this subject, and it is a great loss to the academic world that she did not live to complete work on the subject which she created.

No account of Cecily would be complete without mention of her personality, which was entirely exceptional. Starting with her extremely small size, everything about her was memorable. Regular attenders at the Councils conferences (she never lived to attend one run by the newly-formed Society, although a lecture of hers, printed in this volume, was read out at its inaugural meeting) will never forget her unique and gay laughter, her enthusiasm for any topic discussed,

and on the field-trips her gasps of delight on spotting a foal. Her delight in young animals may be attributed partly to a feeling of sympathy for their small size. Her main interests, apart from her work, were gardening and horses: among the list of her publications is one in the *Journal of the Scottish Rock Garden Club*, very characteristically entitled 'Confessions of a Rock-less Gardener'. (Cecily was not afraid of being provocative, in the most entertaining way, if it was likely to prove fruitful.) She and Gordon were regular attenders at the Newmarket Races, and she even combined this with her academic interests by creating the subject (and perhaps the term) of Hipponymy. In overseeing the production of *Nomina*, she and Gordon happily combined business with pleasure when they found that the printers also produced, and could deliver along with the journal, the race-cards for Market Rasen races.

Cecily is one of the few writers on medieval topics whose articles will regularly make the reader laugh out loud. Often this is due as much to the mode of expression as to the content. On one occasion, when this writer was driving her and Gordon to Scotland along the Great North Road, she caused a hazard to road safety by the quizzical manner in which she read out the two words on a sign for a nearby attraction: 'Air Museum'. She will be very sadly missed, for her academic qualities, for her practical help given to this journal, and most of all for her personality. We extend our deepest sympathy to Gordon, along with our immense gratitude for all his help and support. A memorial volume, collecting together some of her essays and giving a bibliography of her writings, is due to be published by Boydell and Brewer during 1994.

O. J. P.

REVIEWS

RICHARD A. MCKINLEY, *A History of British Surnames*, Longman: London and New York, 1990, viii + 230 pp., hardback £15.95; paperback £7.95.

Until now, there has been no successor to P. H. Reaney's *The origin of English Surnames*, which admirably summarised the previous generations of research, mainly etymological, into English surnames. Since much of the subsequent work has been carried out by McKinley and his students, and published in the five volumes, to date, of the English Surnames Series of the Department of Local History at the University of Leicester, it is appropriate that he should provide this book.

The first sentence is 'The aim of this book is to provide a history of British surnames and their development for the reader without any specialised knowledge of the subject'. By this modest claim, this book must be adjudged a great success, but, in fact, the scope and depth is considerably greater. It is to be hoped that specialists will not be put off by this claim, since there is meat for all, and the success of the book will be measured by its stimulation of new work, necessitating an early updating.

There are nine chapters, and an introduction which covers the general background, the definition of the main classes of surnames, names originating outside Britain, and statistical data on the regional distribution of the name classes at two critical historical periods. A graphical presentation of these latter data might have been more effective, especially in a book otherwise devoid of illustration.

Chapter One is on the evolution of hereditary surnames, and is one of the most important. Reaney did have a chapter on the 'growth of family names', but McKinley's is much more coherent, embodying, as it does the intervening years of work and the results of increasing understanding of many social, economic and cultural issues. A minor warning should be issued here. The title of the book specifies 'British' surnames. McKinley has, in this chapter, short sections on the evolution of names in Wales and Scotland, which should prove excellent introductions to those about to embark on a reading of T. J. and Prys Morgans' book on *Welsh Surnames* or G. F. Black's *The Surnames of Scotland*. Apart from a short section on prefixes, under personal names, this is pretty well as far as the British connection goes. There is an even briefer allusion to Irish names and MacLysaght's *The Surnames of Ireland* is mentioned in the final chapter on further reading. There is also a dearth of Cornish and Manx names mentioned, although, to be fair, this probably reflects the state of recent non-etymological research in these areas.

The bulk of the book, Chapters Two to Six inclusive, deal with the main classes of surname, namely locative, topographical, personal, occupational and nicknames. These provide excellent and easily-readable summaries of the origin and development of these well-established categories, but with a wealth of examples from McKinley's long experience from widely separated regions and from the changed viewpoint of the last decade or so of research. There is also a discussion of special topics, such as the ramification and dispersion of locative names, the regional distribution of occupational names, and of the many remaining problems of interpretation.

Chapter Seven treats several of the general themes that have emerged from the study of the history of surnames. In this age of 'one-name' societies, the possibility is often raised of monogenetic lines, that is, with a single eponymous ancestor. McKinley discusses this problem, together with questions of ramification and migration. In Chapter Eight, he discusses areas of local history on which the study of surnames can throw new light—evidence of migration, social structure and dialect. Both this and previous chapter embody much new evidence and new thinking, although McKinley himself would probably agree that he has only set the ball rolling.

The last chapter contains suggestions for further reading and is highly selective, even to the extent of omitting to mention his own four volumes in the English Surnames Series! The only comment that might be useful is that, since the book went to press, Hanks and Hodges have published their *A Dictionary of Surnames* and R. M. Wilson's much extended and revised version of Reaney has appeared as *A Dictionary of English Surnames*. In addition, Dr M.-T. Morlet has supplanted Dauzat (whose last edition she assisted) with the *Dictionnaire Etymologique des Noms de Famille*.

Despite the criticisms cited, this is an excellent, authoritative and much-needed book, and it should be read by all onomatologists, local, family and social historians, and would probably be useful to quite a few English language academics.

The only matter I regret a little is that McKinley has not done all he could for the tens of thousands, literally, of amateur local and family historians, many of whom have a passionate interest in surnames and are willing to spend an inordinate amount of intelligent and well-informed effort in transcribing and indexing old sources which are in great need of attention. A slightly more didactic approach in places, laying down the law a little about how to help with certain types of problem, defining some terms, such as ramification and dispersion, before they become too badly misused, and so on. Perhaps another publication, Richard?

PETER WILKINSON

ÖRJAN SVENSSON *Saxon Place-Names in East Cornwall*. Lund Studies in English, 77. Lund University Press: Lund, 1987 (ISBN 91-7966-003-7). Distributed in Britain by Chartwell-Bratt Ltd, Old Orchard Rd, Bromley, Kent BR1 2NE (ISBN 0-86238-126-6). xii + 191 pp., 1 map, no price stated.

This published doctoral dissertation is the result of some eight or nine years' research, mainly in printed sources. Svensson has also made much use of J. E. B. Gover's unpublished typescript of 'The Place-Names of Cornwall', completed for the English Place-Name Society in 1948; he has fittingly dedicated this volume to Gover's memory. Svensson's work surveys 'a representative selection' of Old English place-names in that part of East Cornwall where Cornish place-names are in the minority. He deliberately chooses the term 'Saxon' to emphasis that the names discussed have their origins in the West Saxon dialect between the seventh and tenth centuries. His findings also provide evidence for the retreat of the Cornish language during the same period.

Following an introduction which summarises the historical and linguistic background, some 430 names are treated. The layout of the entries is by hundred and division, and then alphabetically by civil, rather than ecclesiastical, parish. Some of the headings are therefore not explained (e.g. Warbstow). There are perhaps a dozen 'hybrids' with a British or Cornish first element, but these are not separately indexed. Some 33 'lost' names are covered: that is, those not on the current 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey maps. It is not clear which, if any, do in fact survive. Many minor names must have been omitted for lack of evidence.

The layout is clear but slightly unusual: more use of bold, indented headings might have helped. As it is, framing of the suggested etymologies within horizontal lines emphasises these at the expense of the names themselves. Svensson provides helpful frequency-tables, but there are no analytical tables by element; nor indexes of out-county names mentioned for comparative purposes. Indeed, more such comparisons would have been useful for some names (e.g. Shillingham). More maps would also have been helpful, but Svensson may have been restricted by considerations of space and cost.

His work bears out the long-recognised similarity between the place-names of East Cornwall and Devon. The variant spellings for the River Ottery (*Atery* 1520, *Atre* 1612 and so on) must be examples of the common unrounding of *o* to *a* in early modern English, noted in *The Place-Names of Devon* (Cambridge, 1931-32). Svensson notes that the distribution of OE *cot* between north and south in his area reflects that in Devon. However, some elements are apparently less common than in Devon (e.g. *brōc*, *burna*, *torr*, *weg*, *wīc*) and there are no recorded examples of *hīwisc* or *hīd*.

Definite linguistic similarities include the preservation of the final dative singular inflexion (Bearah, Forda, Wooda); the survival of a medial inflexional syllable (Bennacott, Coppathorne, Plushabridge) and the peculiar development of OE *æt pære*, ME *atter* (producing names such as Trehill, Treven, Treyeo). This form must also have been influenced by the existence of Co *tre* 'farmstead, hamlet' of which Trematon contains a genuine example. Since Svensson's work appeared, Padel has subjected the particular type 'Treswell' to further discussion in 'Some South-Western Problems', *Leeds Studies in English*, n.s. 18 (1987), at pp. 211-13.

Svensson divides the names, rather basically, into 'original nature names' and 'habitation-names proper', noting that there are almost twice as many of the former. The most frequent generic elements in nature-names are *dūn*, *ford*, *wiell*, *cumb*, *bearu*, *hyll* and *wudu*. He suggests that the bulk of the names in *dūn* probably refer to holdings created from the upland waste in the Middle Ages. The main habitation-names are *tūn*, *cot*, *leah*, *hamm*, *wordig* and *land*.

Svensson remarks that many of the *tūn*-names relate to prominent topographical features. He does not explain why he includes *leah* and *hamm* as quasi-habitative names, nor does he draw attention to the complete lack of *hām*; this would have been helpful for the non-specialist reader. Nowhere does he refer to Margaret Gelling's *Placenames in the Landscape* (London, 1984), and her *Signposts to the Past* (London, 1978), which he does list, seems to have had little influence on his thesis. In his conclusion, the elements are rather artificially grouped for discussion solely on the basis of their frequencies (e.g. *brycg* and *þorn* are grouped together; likewise *feld*, *orceard* and *stōw*). It would certainly have made more sense to try to interpret the landscape in a less numerical, more critical way: but landscape interpretation was perhaps not one of the requirements of the dissertation. Such as it is, Svensson's presentation of settlement history also seems rather conservative and simplistic. 'Many new TUNS came into existence as a result of the toil of industrious pioneers': other scholars have accepted that *tūn*-names mark the break-up of large royal or ecclesiastical estates (surely also the case in Cornwall) and need not contain the names of the first founders. Svensson also avoids discussion of *-ingas*, *-inga-* and the connective *-ing-*⁴, and plumps for 'the people of, dependants of' even in names such as Cockington and Werrington where there is no evidence of *-inge-* spellings. This leads him into difficulties with Hornacott, where he identifies the *Horningas*, a group of people 'possibly of humble birth' (since they lived in a 'cottage?').

We are only given hints of the earliest estates and their tenurial development. It would have been interesting to have more discussion of names such as Callington, Kilkhampton, Stratton (important early estate centres) on the one hand, and Burraton ('*tūn* of the peasants'), Cherriton ('*tūn* of the free peasants'), Manaton ('common *tūn*') on the other. The use of *land*

and *tūn* for the Saxon estate and its centre is noted on several occasions: Stoke Climsland and Climson reflect one such arrangement. Padel, in his *Popular Dictionary of Cornish Place-Names* (1988) also mentions Oldclims nearby, presumably an earlier centre.

Given Padel's long involvement in the area, it is not surprising that most (but not all) of the differences in derivation between the two are those associated with the local topography (Clubworthy, Flexbury, Harrowbarrow are some cases in point). For Albaston, Svensson suggests OE **anli(e)pigan-stān* 'solitary stone', whereas Padel, with some possible earlier forms, prefers a personal name plus *tūn*. Svensson's derivation of Bakesdown from an OE **bagga-stān* 'stone of the wethers' is influenced by Scandinavian example away from OE **bagga*, possibly 'badger'; and, indeed, from the OE personal name *Bacga*, another possibility. However, EPNE has no examples of animal names plus *stān*, and a personal name (perhaps referring to a boundary marker) seems very likely.

Svensson does not have much comment to make on Anglo-Norman or Middle English developments, doubtless because of his concentration on 'Saxon' names. It would still have been interesting to read some comment on typical names such as Hayes, Barton and Welltown. The name Merryfield is very common in Devon, and Svensson notes two in East Cornwall; Padel also notes the common Merrymeet(ing) elsewhere in Cornwall. Does this tell us something about the character of the land and its inhabitants?

Saxon Place-Names in East Cornwall is a very useful contribution in an area of England on which little has been published. Svensson has provided the ground-work from which to begin an analysis of the naming processes and settlement-history of East Cornwall. Realising that the Cornish origin of some names is only obvious because of the survival of early forms reminds us yet again how precarious all such analysis can be.

JENNIFER SCHERR

JEFFREY SPITTAL and JOHN FIELD, *A Reader's Guide to the Place-Names of the United Kingdom: A Bibliography of Publications (1920-1989) on the Place-Names of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands*. Paul Watkins Medieval Studies IV. Paul Watkins: Stamford, 1990, xix + 341 pp.; 2 maps, £30.

A good retrospective bibliography of the place-names of the United Kingdom has been long overdue. Current publications have been well reported for some years past in such journals as *Nomina*, *Onoma*, the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* and *Anglo-Saxon England*, but, surprisingly enough, there has until now been no reasonably comprehensive listing of works on the

place-names of these islands as a whole. Indeed, the only previous compilation inviting comparison in point of detail, if not of scope, with the work under review, is R. J. Roberts's *Bibliography of Writings on English Place- and Personal Names*, published in 1959 as a supplement to *Onoma*. Spittal and Field would, then, have performed a very useful service if they had contented themselves with merely putting together an up-to-date list of the major publications in the field. To their great credit they have done much more than that.

It is an unfortunate but well-known fact that the study of place-names, particularly in its etymological aspects, has attracted far more than its fair share of ill-founded speculation and dubious interpretation. A bibliographic guide such as this, intended chiefly for 'local historians and general readers', must therefore have as one of its primary aims the judicious separation of the wheat from the chaff. Spittal and Field have attempted this both by the provision of a wide-ranging 40-page introduction and by informative and, where necessary, trenchant annotations of individual items, often consisting of verbatim comments by leading authorities. In the painstaking task of selection, sifting and annotation, the compilers have wisely sought the advice and help of a very wide range of scholars, librarians, archivists and others, testimony of which is a list of acknowledgments running to almost four pages.

The Introduction consists of eight sections. The first, 'The Study of Place-Names', gives a concise sketch of toponymic study in the British Isles, from early mythologizing, through its establishment as a serious academic pursuit in the early decades of this century, to the more recent recognition of the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in the interpretation of place-names. A section on 'Introductory Works' outlining the strengths and limitations of the most important general reference books on British and Irish place-names is followed by 'Sources and Methods in Place-Name Study', which emphasizes the importance for analysis of the availability of early name-forms and discusses the skills and knowledge required for such an analysis, the reference aids of value in linguistic interpretation, and the chief sources of names (numismatic, epigraphic and documentary) of value to the toponymist. The section entitled 'The Survey of English Place-Names' offers a useful introduction to the publications of the county-by-county Survey of the English Place-Name Society, which have not only been of obvious importance for English place-name studies but have also served as models for serious county or regional surveys in other countries. It might have been worth mentioning here that etymologies and interpretations enshrined in the earlier, pre-war, volumes of the Survey, while generally sound by the standards of their day, are by no means sacrosanct, and that where possible later authorities should also be consulted. Scholars in other disciplines, let

alone interested general readers, have sometimes shown a curious reluctance to accept the fact that place-name interpretations may legitimately be revised with the increasing availability of comparative material and more general advances in knowledge. This section also includes a digressionary *cri de cœur* on the use of county abbreviations in place-name reference works and a concluding paragraph explaining 'a few of the more frequent technical expressions' found in the literature. This is possibly too short and general to be of great use to the general reader; a lengthier glossary, perhaps as an appendix, would not have been out of place in a 'reader's guide'. A summary of 'Recent Developments in Place-Name Studies' reviews the new thinking of the past three or four decades and describes current research programmes and activities, major publishing ventures, conferences and courses. The discussion here of revisionist views on the chronology of English place-names is perhaps a little too compressed to be entirely comprehensible to the uninitiated, whose attention might profitably have been drawn to Margaret Gelling's article, 'Towards a chronology for English place-names', in *Anglo-Saxon Settlements*, edited by D. Hooke (Oxford, 1988); Dr Gelling has recently provided an even more accessible survey, 'The present state of English place-name studies', in *The Local Historian*, vol. 22, no. 3 (August 1992).

'Place-Names and Local History' suggests ways in which local historians can usefully contribute to place-name studies by transcribing, collecting and publishing lists of names of various types, with the necessary proviso that the etymological interpretation of names is 'undoubtedly a specialist activity'. A survey of 'General and Special Sources of Bibliographical Information' details such sources as relevant current and retrospective bibliographies, journals regularly containing bibliographical information, and guides to theses. (The *Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* might have been included here for its critical comments on important material of Celtic interest.)

The arrangement of the bibliography is essentially geographical, by country. Secondary topical and geographical subdivisions have been chosen with some flexibility so as to provide sections of manageable size, taking into account both the quantity and nature of the available literature: Scotland, for instance, is given a section on mountain-names, while England has one on industrial place-names. Within each geographical area, e.g. county, general works precede those on individual names, which are listed in alphabetical order of place. A welcome feature here is the location and description of unpublished collections of names in libraries, record offices and other places. There is generous use throughout of cross-referencing and multiple entry, which, although giving rise to some duplication, will undoubtedly be helpful to the casual enquirer. Such duplication, together perhaps with a desire to aid legibility and save space, presumably influenced the decision not to number items, a practice which the more determined user may regret when he has to

scan whole pages in following up index references. The geographically-arranged sections are preceded by one on 'General Reference Works', listing such items as bibliographies, relevant language and foreign place-name dictionaries, dictionaries of place-name elements, gazetteers and cartographic reference works. (It would have been pleasing if room could have been found here for a sub-section directing the reader to the journals most useful to British toponymists.) This, and the topical sections included under each country, are notable in providing excellent coverage of works in fields ancillary to, but essential for, a full understanding of place-names, a policy very much in keeping with the compilers' insistence on the interdisciplinary nature of the subject.

The bibliography is provided with three appendices. The first, 'Earlier Works on Place-Names', records a selection of substantial older works published between 1850 and 1920, the second lists works on British place-names transferred abroad, and the third, 'Place-Names and the Matter of Britain', by Mark English, is a selective bibliography of Arthurian place-names. There are separate indexes of authors, dedicatees of *Festschriften*, places and elements, the last of which also includes well-defined name-types such as 'inversion compounds' and 'Grimston hybrids'.

An ambitious and pioneering work such as this, which aims at comprehensiveness but not exhaustiveness, naturally invites comment on what has been omitted. A personal selection of items which this reviewer would like to have seen included are: the British Academy's *Anglo-Saxon Charters* series (Oxford, 1973-): *Rochester* (1973), *Burton Abbey* (1979) and *Sherborne* (1988); Eilert Ekwall, 'Variation and change in English place-names', *Vetenskaps-societeten i Lund, Årsbok* 1962; *idem*, *Contributions to the History of Old English Dialects* (Lund, 1917), an early and important example of the use of place-name evidence in historical dialectology; Alan Everitt, *Continuity and Colonization: the Evolution of Kentish Settlement* (Leicester, 1986); Olof von Feilitzen, *The Published Writings of Eilert Ekwall: a Bibliography* (Lund, 1961); Ernst Förstemann, *Altdeutsches Namenbuch*, 3rd ed., 2 vols (Bonn, 1913-16); Kenneth Jackson, 'The British language during the period of the English settlements', in *Studies in Early British History*, edited by Nora K. Chadwick (Cambridge, 1954), an accessible introduction to the same author's monumental *Language and History in Early Britain*; and O. J. Padel, *A Popular Dictionary of Cornish Place-Names* (Penzance, 1988). The omission of the last-named work as a bibliographical item (but not from the introduction: see p. 19) is an unfortunate oversight, since it is an outstandingly successful and all too rare example of popularisation by a leading scholar in the field.

It would be most inappropriate, however, to end on a note of criticism, for this is a fine achievement for which all British toponymists, local

historians, archaeologists, historical geographers and landscape historians should be grateful. It is reassuring to know that an update is planned, for the 1990s are likely to be a productive decade in place-name research, with the *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*, the English Place-Name Society's Leverhulme project, and place-name surveys in Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, amongst other initiatives, all promising rich results.

JOHN FREEMAN

DAVID MILLS, *A Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Oxford University Press, 1991, xxxi + 388 pp.

This dictionary is a nice, neat job. In a rapidly-moving subject, it is impossible for anything to be absolutely up to the minute when published, but this is as near as could reasonably be expected. The book is of a size which will fit into a car glove compartment, and it should contribute to the on-going task of conveying sound information about place-name origins to a reading and motoring public.

This is, however, a book for people who want answers, rather than for people who enjoy arguments. Etymologies are stated without discussion, and names are not given a topographical or historical context. They are not even related to each other. Sonning, Sunninghill and Sunningwell, for instance, are all traced to a group of people called Sunningas, but there is no indication that it is the same group, even though Sunninghill and Sunningwell are consecutive entries. Even allowing for the extreme economy of treatment, it seems a shame not to say under Reach, Cambs, that the 'raised strip of land or other linear feature' is the Devil's Dyke, to which the settlement bears a particularly interesting relationship; and under Redditch, that the actual 'red ditch' is the starting point of a forest perambulation of A.D. 1300. And it is a great pity not to mention under Bibury and Woolstone that we know the identity of the eponymous Bēage and Wulfrīc. If observations of this kind were considered too discursive, it might at least have been possible to indicate where a reader could find them. There is a Further Reading list, but a person new to the subject would have little idea what sort of information should be sought under each of the titles. There could, perhaps, have been a reference to one of these books under each of the numerous names about which further concrete information is available.

Factual errors are rare, but two such concern Anglo-Saxon charter boundaries. Claybrooke, Leics, is not likely to be the *Clæg broc* where the bounds associated with a charter of 962 begin, and Anslow, Staffs, is *Ansidelege*, *Ansythelege* in the bounds of neighbouring places, so the meaning cannot be 'hermitage clearing'.

A fair number of etymologies could be improved by being related to topography. To take a few instances, Ross on Wye and Roos in Holderness occupy closely comparable sites, perched on low promontories. As 'promontory' is one of the established meanings of Welsh *ros*, this can hardly be coincidence, and other meanings of *ros* need not be cited. Under Hurstbourne, Hants, we are offered 'stream of the youths' as an alternative to 'stream with winding water-plants'. Ann Cole has photographs of the stream with a wonderful growth of reed canary grass, surely the *hysse* of the name. Beamsley has a classic 'bottom', and Hadzor a magnificent **ofer*. I am gratified to see that my rendering of **ofer* as 'flat-topped ridge' is frequently accepted, but for Hadzor we are given the irrelevant alternative of *ofer* 'bank, margin, shore'. Work proceeds on the linking of topographical generics to landscape forms, and much of it is too new to find its way into last year's reference books.

The Introduction is eminently sensible, but I should like to take issue with one point. This is the statement (p. xxii) that topographical settlement names were originally descriptions of some topographical feature which were then transferred to the settlement. In names involving some topographical terms, such as *dūn* and *ēg*, it is inconceivable that there was not, in most cases, a long-established settlement there when English speakers arrived, and it is unlikely that transference is involved. Statements such as 'fern-covered hill' or 'island where there are wild geese' are probably the English way of defining a unit consisting of a settlement in a certain situation with a certain type of economy. Some topographical generics are likely to have a quasi-habitative significance.

Another relatively new concept missing both from the Introduction and from the dictionary entries is that of the functional *tūn* name. It seems likely that some recurrent names, such as Eaton and Moreton, are not simple topographical statements about the position of the *tūn*, but are designations indicating the special function of that *tūn* in relation to the economy of a large estate or in relation to a travel route. This is a concept with a future, though here again much more work is needed to establish it.

This dictionary is not designed for argumentative readers like me. It is intended to convey accurate information crisply and concisely, and in that it succeeds. English place-names do, however, lend themselves to more discursive treatment, and it is to be hoped that readers will understand that there is a great deal more to be said.

MARGARET GELLING

DELLA HOOKE, *Worcestershire Anglo-Saxon Charter Bounds*, Studies in Anglo-Saxon History II, the Boydell Press, Woodbridge, 1990, 441 pp. + 8 plates, ISBN 0 85115 276 7; £45

In recent years, Della Hooke has done much to elucidate the nature of the Anglo-Saxon landscape of the midland shires through her detailed studies of charter bounds. This volume, the second in Boydell's series of studies in Anglo-Saxon history, provides the basic evidence for Dr Hooke's previous interpretative studies, namely the charter bounds themselves. The charter collection essentially comprises those charters and leases that have boundary clauses and pertain to the pre-1974 county of Worcestershire. The collection, thus, does not reflect the totality of charters of the Domesday county of Worcestershire or the extensive estates of the churches of Worcester, Pershore and Evesham.

From the great body of charter material available, attention is concentrated upon the 79 charters and related documents that possess boundary clauses. These date from the eighth to the eleventh centuries, and each of them is subjected to a detailed but similar scrutiny. A general description of the document is given, along with its source, location and likely authenticity, the latter largely derived from Sawyer. The original Latin text of the grants is given with as little editing as possible, and each is carefully translated. In addition, a statement is made as to any rights that are enshrined within the grant. Most attention, however, is focused on the Old English boundary clauses. Each boundary clause is transcribed in full and then translated and 'solved' from boundary point to boundary point. The solutions are accompanied by general notes on the grant, and by a detailed topographic assessment of the area covered. Neatly-designed maps of the bounds illustrate each solution.

A considerable resource is thus made accessible for the study of both Anglo-Saxon landscape terminology and estate structures. As such, it is far superior to, and more 'user friendly' than the less accurate earlier pioneering work of G. B. Grundy. Finally, two glossaries list topographic and land-use terms, as well as the terms used for the plants and animals that appear in the Worcestershire charters. It is a pity that these glossary terms were not fully indexed so that direct reference could be made back to the original contexts. This would have been of considerable service to those wishing to study name elements.

For the student of the Anglo-Saxon landscape, a vital source is now made available in a comprehensive and comprehensible form. The maps have clearly been designed to reflect the evidence and hence give a representation of the Anglo-Saxon, rather than the modern landscape. This produces an uncluttered appearance, although on occasions the level of reduction does

make for difficulties in reading the actual boundary markers. Also, the lack of modern topographic detail means that anyone wishing to use the book as a vade-mecum to the byways of Worcestershire's charter boundaries would do well to make full use of the Ordnance Survey map references that have been included with each solution.

This is an attractively-produced work that combines scholarship with accessibility. It is a pity that the price is such that it is likely to end up predominantly a library work of reference, for there is much here for the local historian as well as the Anglo-Saxon specialist to enjoy.

JOHN HAMSHERE