

## Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

## Third Annual Study Conference: Aberystwyth 1994

The third annual study conference organized by the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland was held at Pantycelyn Hall of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, from 15 to 18 April 1994. The programme was organized by Professor Gwynedd Pierce, Dr Hywel Wyn Owen, and Dr Prys Morgan, its smooth running greatly helped by the local collaboration of Dr Morfydd Owen. The opening lectures, from Professor Geraint Jenkins, director of the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies at Aberystwyth, and Professor Geraint Gruffydd, its former director, had a distinctly local flavour. Professor Jenkins on the Friday night introduced local history and traditions (and local patriotism) of Cardiganshire; Professor Gruffydd on the Saturday morning unfolded how Wales's most famous poet, Dafydd ap Gwilym, used local (and perhaps also non-local) place-names to enhance the texture of his poetry of disappointment in love. Mr Terry James (Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales), eloquently supported by Mr Simon Taylor (Edinburgh), spoke on current attempts at harmonizing the core structure of computerized databases of place-names in Wales, Scotland and elsewhere in the British Isles. This sparked off lively discussion on what is the right level of detail for such harmonization; Cornwall seemed the region most anxious that it should be kept simple. Dr Kay Muhr (Belfast) spoke on a particular group of place-names, ones containing personal names in north-west County Down. Most of the townlands involved had been in church lordship; rather many of the families they were named after seemed to have found havens as tenants there after falling on evil days in their original places elsewhere in Ulster.

In a long lunch-hour many of the more energetic members of the conference were to be observed making the rounds of local bookshops. The afternoon was also mainly devoted to books, in visits to the National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Dictionary of the Welsh Language. Mr Philip Wyn Davies acted as guide to the library's manuscripts and early printed books, Mr Robert Davies to maps (especially tithe maps, but also nautical charts recalling Dr

Richardson's lecture last year). Dr Andrew Hawke explained the methods of *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru*, which like all good historical dictionaries has a good history; its second volume was the last book printed by Oxford University Press by hot metal, two years after the last such book actually published by O.U.P.

Lectures resumed on the Saturday evening with an illustrated talk by Dr Margaret Gelling (Birmingham) on the coherence of the Old English place-naming vocabulary, 'From Kent to Northumberland'. The serendipity of her photographs of landscape features from just the right points on motorways and elsewhere was much appreciated. On the Sunday morning Dr Veronica Smart explored the replacement of Old English by Continental and Biblical names among moneyers after the Norman Conquest (meaning mainly the twelfth century). It was harder than might be expected to find in the physical record a correlate for the occasion she recounted with relish, when Bishop Roger of Salisbury invited moneyers to feast with him over Christmas and at the end of the twelve days had the right hands cut off those who did. Mr Paul Cullen spoke on 'Some East Kent place-names' which, he claimed, had caused him bother. He found a single explanation for the 'Ware' in Warehorne and several similar names, and several different explanations for names like Lidden. Miss Jennifer Scherr presented a circuit of the late medieval boundaries of Croydon, integrating maps, details of local history, recorded place-names, and many deceptively rural-looking local views from points on the boundary at the present day.

The afternoon coach excursion met with better weather than some in recent years. Mr Gerald Morgan (Aberystwyth) fluently expounded a variety of details of the Cardiganshire landscape and their interpenetration with history. Stops included the forestry estate of Hafod, where a red kite obligingly flew overhead and members explored the deep ice-house of the now demolished mansion, and Strata Florida Abbey where is the grave of Dafydd ap Gwilym. The annual general meeting of the Society, held that evening, spent so long discussing constitutional contingencies not foreseen by the framers of the constitution that the usual wide-ranging discussion of onomastic topics was not held.

P.R.K.

## REVIEWS

B. G. CHARLES, *The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire*, 2 vols, The National Library of Wales: Aberystwyth, 1992, lxxxvii + 867 pp., one map, £50

In these two handsome volumes, Dr Charles has presented a vast quantity of material which is of great interest, and may serve as a quarry for future studies of the history of Pembrokeshire.

This is a county in which very few names can be shown to be of immemorial antiquity. The Norse and English names have *termini post quem*, not earlier than the ninth century for the former, and not much earlier than 1100 for the latter. The commonest Welsh element is *tref*, clearly perceived as the equivalent of English *tūn*, and frequently followed by English or Continental personal names. Apart from river-names, there is little here that relates to pre-history, or to the Roman or Migration periods. Dr Charles ascribes the numerous Llan- and occasional Eglwys- names to the sixth century, the Age of the Saints, and these ecclesiastical names (which must have replaced earlier Welsh toponyms) are probably the oldest substantial stratum which survives.

The comparatively late origin of most Pembrokeshire names has enabled Dr Charles to stand aside from the debates of the last three decades concerning place-name chronology in England, Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. It must be noted that this book represents place-name studies as they were in the year 1965. That is the date of the third part of Hugh Smith's EPNS Gloucestershire survey, which is the last of the EPNS volumes to be cited in Dr Charles's Bibliography. Here, 'PN Berks' is Stenton 1904, not the EPNS survey of 1973-76, and 'PN Do' is Fägersten 1933, with no mention of the EPNS Dorset volumes of 1977, 1980 and 1989. Only a handful of works cited in the Bibliography dates from after 1970, and 'DEPN' is the third, 1947, edition of Ekwall's *Dictionary*, not the fourth edition of 1960. A similar disregard of comparatively recent work lies behind the citing under Milford Haven of *Cledemutha*, where Edward the Elder built a fort in 921. For many years now, historians and archaeologists have located *Cledemutha* near Rhuddlan, by the estuary of the River Clwyd.

This lack of cognisance of place-name and historical studies during the last thirty years is not as catastrophic in a survey of Pembrokeshire as it would be in a study of most areas. Since the English names of Pembrokeshire are of post-Norman-Conquest origin, the revisionism which has brought about a new concept of place-name chronology in the post-Roman period is barely relevant. The Norse names are coastal and obviously related to trade, so the on-going modern debate about the extent to which Norse farmers are

responsible for Norse place-names does not impinge. The thorny question of the extent to which names in a new language indicate colonisation is brusquely dealt with in the Introduction (p. xlv):

We do not know whether these English settlements had replaced earlier Welsh ones whose names were lost in the process. Many no doubt represent new holdings formed out of the waste and hitherto uncultivated land.

Now that Dr Charles has made the documented place-name evidence available, it may be possible for historical geographers to study the relationship of English names to the situation and agricultural potential of the settlements, and to make an assessment of the likely incidence of takeover of ancient Welsh settlements, as opposed to expansion of arable into waste.

The great value of Dr Charles's survey lies in the quantity of material presented. The comprehensive list of elements helps to make this material accessible, but it is not altogether satisfactory as a guide, because field-names and minor names cited there are not provenanced to parishes. Such provenancing has now become customary in EPNS volumes, together with thorough indexing of all map names, however late they are recorded. In the Pembrokeshire list, some field-names are given page references, but this is not done for the numerous, un-indexed minor names. Under *abwth* 'fright', for instance, the name cited is Carnabwth, but it is not indexed and would be hard to find. Many other names which one would like to trace, like the two 'silly dykes' listed under *dwl*, are neither provenanced nor indexed. I should like to know why Rose Valley, entered under *rose*, is considered to refer to the flower rather than being from Welsh *rhos*, but the name is not in the index, and neither is Rosebush, which is listed under *rhos*. Rose Valley is of some interest: comparable names in Cornwall were collected and discussed by Dr Padel in *Leeds Studies in English*, 18 (1987), 213-14.

There are inconsistencies between the text and the elements list in the meanings assigned to some words. Welsh *bilwg*, from English *bill-hook*, is said (surely correctly) to be the implement-name probably used to denote shape (II, 748), but at I, 217 we have:

BILL HOOK (Billwg) . . . from *bill* 'beak, narrow corner of land' . . . and *hook* (hōc) 'spur or ridge of land'. The homestead lies in such a corner.

One 'element' has crept in by mistake. Bayvil is the single item cited under Old French *lieu* (II, 791), but at I, 27 we have, 'This seems to be a French name, the second element being French *ville*', and Bayvil is listed again under *ville* (II, 821). There is a puzzling entry (II, 760): '**club** E[nglish]. Club'. The reference is presumably to a field-name Club, listed (II, 827) under Miscellaneous names, but with no provenance and no comment on the

possible significance. Another name, Clubland, appears in the Index (II, 847), and for this we have eighteenth-century documentation (II, 534), but again no comment. In the citation of Old English words, length-marks are erratically distributed. Care would be needed if the items in this elements-list were to be added to a data-base.

English names in Pembrokeshire, like French names in England, include some items which have been transferred from the homeland of the settlers. There are probably more of these than Dr Charles allows. Under Windsor Hill in Pembroke, which is one of six instances of Windsor in the county, he admits that this may be a transferred name, but he is inclined to see the other five as 'of local origin' (II, 724). The compound *windels-ōra* is not, however, likely to have been current in English speech in the twelfth century. Woodstock in Ambleston parish is treated as an independent coinage (II, 397), but transference seems more likely, as it does for Derby (II, 593) and Colby (II, 456). Dr Charles comments in the introduction (I, xxxvii) that Colby and Derby are atypical of Norse names, in being inland. Other instances, such as Bristol, Highgate, London and Tyburn are, however, recognised as transferences, as is the parish-name Monnington (I, 112). Scarborough (I, 206) is another possible example.

Welsh names are more fanciful and humorous, on the whole, than English names, and there are many delightful examples here. The 'beware of' group listed at I, 164 and II, 623 may be instanced: Gochel Sythi 'beware of freezing', Gochel Boddi 'beware of drowning', Gochel Gwmpo 'beware of falling', and others which warn of thirst and fire. On p. 7, there is a list of Welsh river-names derived from implements or tools.

Dr Charles's labours have been heroic, and the National Library of Wales must be thanked for making this material available. As usual with their publications, the price is modest.

MARGARET GELLING

ASBJØRN KARBØ and KRISTOFFER KRUKEN, *Blåmann og Lykle: Norske Geitenamn*, Novus Forlag: Oslo, 1994

The authors of *Blåmann og Lykle: Norske Geitenamn* are currently working on a project supported by the University of Oslo, the aim of which is to produce detailed studies of Norwegian names for domestic animals. Their first publication, which appeared in 1991, was a study of names for cattle entitled *Gullhorn og dei andre. Kunamn i Noreg*. The present volume, which deals with Norwegian goats' names, is similar in structure to the earlier volume, but the writers correctly point out that their study of goats' names gives them more

opportunity to explore the historical and folkloric dimension than was feasible in their study of names for cattle.

The book opens with several well-researched chapters on goats and their general importance in the present and past Norwegian community, whether as 'travelling milkshops' or sources of folklore and rhyme. It would appear that cattle have never been the stuff of which legends are made, but goats—both nanny and billy—appear ubiquitously in Norse mythology, fables, riddles, proverbs, lullabies, skipping rhymes, counting rhymes and so on. Examples of all of these are discussed in the book, from the god Thor's two billy-goats, Tanngrjost and Tanngrisne, onwards, and the result is that a very esoteric topic suddenly comes to life, and the reader begins to understand the fascination of goats' names for the authors, and to believe that their book could appeal to a much wider audience than had, at first, seemed possible. The illustrations scattered throughout the book also add to its interest and emphasise the combination of present farming reality with the imaginative representation of goats in literature and folklore, or even arguably in the Bronze Age carvings from Bohuslän literature which appear on the back cover of the book.

The book also contains thorough analysis of the types of name given to goats, dividing the names into categories according to source of inspiration (e.g. aspect of the goat's appearance, human personal name, etc.). The second half of the book comprises an impressively comprehensive list of names for nanny-goats and billy-goats, collected from the various sources which are earlier discussed. It is difficult to envisage how the list might be used in future, but it is very useful to have it as a record of a naming practice which is no longer as widespread as it used to be, and which may vanish with the small farmer who had the time and inclination to name his goats.

A bibliography is included in the volume for those who wish to pursue the topic, and it should be used in conjunction with the bibliography in *Gullhorn og dei andre. Kunamn i Noreg*, mentioned above, upon which it builds.

DOREEN J. WAUGH

DELLA HOOKE, *Pre-Conquest Charter-Bounds of Devon and Cornwall*, The Boydell Press: Woodbridge, 1994, 239 pp. + 9 plates, £29.50

Della Hooke's second collection of pre-Conquest charter-bounds follows the same format as her earlier work, *The Anglo-Saxon Charter-Bounds of Worcestershire* (Woodbridge, 1990). It comprises a detailed study of all topographical detail from surviving pre-Conquest charters relating to Devon and Cornwall, including one post-Conquest charter of A.D. 1069, and an

undated boundary clause. All have been freshly transcribed from the manuscripts, and are presented with the minimum of editing, retaining the original punctuation as well as the Anglo-Saxon letters *æ*, *þ*, *ð*, *wynn* and dotted *y*. Each charter-bound is translated and discussed clause by clause, and is accompanied by a map showing the location of the named features. There are nine plates, ranging from facsimiles of charters to photographs of landscape, and the place-name index is preceded by a glossary of Cornish and Old English charter terms relating to topography, land use, flora and fauna.

One of the strengths of the book lies in the detailed discussions of local topography, by means of which Dr Hooke is able to locate landmarks more precisely than previous scholars, and thus to identify estates more accurately. Many of the bounds remain uncertain, but in some instances, new and convincing solutions are offered, as for the estate at Sandford granted by King Athelstan to Bishop Eadulf in the tenth century (Sawyer no. 405), here shown to follow boundaries recorded in the tithe-apportionment (here misleadingly called 'tithing boundaries') in the nineteenth (p. 121). Where appropriate, alternative solutions are discussed, and their relative merits clearly presented so as to facilitate further work.

Dr Hooke also gives alternative etymologies for individual features within the bounds, as, for instance, when a qualifying element may be a personal name or a word. Sometimes, indeed, she may be over-cautious. *Colebrooke* (p. 98) is much more likely to mean 'cool brook' than 'Cola's brook'; and *earn's bricg*, translated on p. 91 as 'eagle's (or Earn's) ridge', almost certainly refers to the bird. The corpus of place-names containing OE *earn* assembled by Margaret Gelling ('Anglo-Saxon eagles', *Leeds Studies in English*, 18 (1987), 173-81) includes four Devon names in the genitive singular, and it seems highly probable that this is another, parallel to Eridge in Sussex. On p. 92, *hananforda* is translated 'Hana's ford', although it seems equally possible that the first element is OE *hana* 'a cock', the headword under which the place-name Hanford (Cheshire and Shropshire) is cited in Smith's *English Place-Name Elements* (EPNS 25-26), I, 233.

There are other occasions where more discussion is required. On pp. 90-91, the unwary reader should not be allowed to assume that 'Grendel's pit' contains an ordinary Old English personal name. With regard to 'Cain's acre' on p. 95, the comment, 'one wonders if this was a derogatory term', is scarcely adequate, as references to Cain constitute a well-known field-name type alluding to infertile land (J. Field, *English Field-Names. A Dictionary*, 2nd edn (1989), p. 35). Too many charter terms are simply left untranslated, as with '*bigulfes* barrow (or hill)' on p. 212, where it would be more helpful to explain that *bigulf* may be the Old English personal name *Beowulf*, possibly even referring to the hero of the same poem in which the monster Grendel appears, as Peter Kitson has recently suggested ('Quantifying qualifiers in

Anglo-Saxon charter boundaries', *Folia Linguistica Historica*, 14 (1993), 29-82, at p. 49, n. 28).

Throughout the book, place-name etymologies are meticulously supported by references to authoritative sources, including the English Place-Name Survey volumes for Devon (EPNS 8-9). Unfortunately, however, there are instances where Dr Hooke overlooks changes in scholarly opinions since these volumes were produced more than sixty years ago. On p. 111, the possibility that Ringmore 'may derive its name from Old English *ridde* and *mōr*', is advanced with proper caution, citing *PN Devon*, I, 283, but without mentioning that place-name scholars today prefer a derivation from OE *brēod* 'reed' (A. D. Mills, *A Dictionary of English Place-Names* (Oxford, 1991), p. 272; M. Gelling, *Place-Names in the Landscape* (London, 1994), p. 307). On the same page, Malborough is derived from the personal name *Mærla*. This is indeed the etymology advanced by the editors of *The Place-Names of Devon* (I, 307), but the first element of Malborough is now considered at least equally likely to be a plant-name (Mills, *Dictionary*, p. 221; Gelling, *Place-Names in the Landscape*, p. 128). The discussion of Brampford on p. 151 refers to the derivation from OE *brame* put forward in *PN Devon*, II, 422-23, but fails to note that this etymology was withdrawn in an addendum in *PN Nottinghamshire*, p. xxxvii.

Whitelock's *English Historical Documents* is also cited frequently, and it is disconcerting to find that most but not all page references relate to the first edition (1955) rather than to the second (1979). This is presumably because much information is taken directly from P. H. Sawyer's *Anglo-Saxon Charters* (London, 1968), a practice which leads to error in the discussion of the Landrake charter on p. 55. Here Dr Hooke states, 'Document as a whole not authentic', citing Whitelock 1955, p. 551. In fact, Whitelock accepted the authenticity of this charter in 1955 (p. 551), but revised her opinion in 1979 (p. 597) in the light of comments published by Chaplais in 1966. Dr Hooke's reference appears to derive from a misreading of Sawyer's entry (*Anglo-Saxon Charters*, p. 286), where a page reference to Whitelock 1955 is followed on the same line by a reference to Chaplais 1966, with a precis of Chaplais' argument that 'the document as a whole is not authentic'. Page references to *English Historical Documents* in the section on 'Manumissions and related documents' (pp. 70-82), on the other hand, relate to the second edition, although this is nowhere stated, and the second edition is not in the bibliography. Such inconsistency can only serve to confuse the reader.

It is unfortunate that the book contains a large number of typographical errors. Most glaring is the omission of symbols from the 'Key to the charter maps' on p. 14; but there are many smaller slips, as on p. 49 line 12 (word omitted?), p. 50 line 13 'at it' for 'it at', p. 111 line 38 'Soar' for 'Sewer', p. 125 line 14 'were' for 'where', p. 151 line 32 'one on' for 'one of', p. 164 line 30

'suggests' for 'suggest', p. 171 lines 5–6 'field-' repeated, p. 185 line 5 (closing bracket omitted), p. 190 line 12 'Æthelredgranted', p. 192 line 14 'givern', p. 193 line 24 'is' for 'its', p. 195 line 7 'southen', line 12 'of', p. 199 line 14 'follow' for 'follows', p. 200 line 34 'erroniously', p. 207 line 13 'steam' for 'stream', p. 214 line 12 'suggest' for 'suggests', and p. 225 last line 'mass-daty' for 'mass-day'. On p. 111 n. 18 'IL.311' should read 'I.311', and p. 62 n. 12, 'Padel, *Cornish Place-Name Elements*' is an error for 'Padel, *A Popular Dictionary*'. Even the transcriptions are not wholly accurate. On p. 165, the transcription of Sawyer no. 704 has *eahtowan* (with *wynn*) for *eahtōpan*, and the following line has *cincges* for *cinges*, an error which is repeated on the map on p. 166. On p. 186, the transcription of Sawyer no. 1492 has *mansca* for *manca*. More rigorous proof-reading would have eradicated these, as well as the curious inconsistency whereby the transcription of Sawyer no. 405 on p. 117 represents the first occurrence of *fintes leage* at the start of the bounds with an ordinary letter g, but reproduces the flat-topped Anglo-Saxon character for the second occurrence at the conclusion of the bounds back at *fintes leaȝ*. (The same letter is used both times in the manuscript.) Still more oddly, the translation leaves *fintes* untranslated in the first instance (p. 118), but gives 'Fint's' in the second (p. 121).

There are also occasional inaccuracies in translation. On p. 80, *pro anima matris illius* is translated 'for the soul of their mothers' instead of 'for the soul of his mother', and *ut libertatem habeat ab eo et a semine suo perpetualiter* is translated 'that he should have from him liberty and his offspring for ever' instead of 'that he should have liberty from him and from his offspring for ever'. On p. 159, *wale* (dative singular of *walu*) is translated 'foot' rather than 'ridge', the correct translation which appears in the glossary (p. 232). If *earnas bricg* (see above) does contain a personal name, it must be *Earn* rather than *Earna*, since the genitive inflection is strong, not weak; and for the same reason, 'Dalla's barrow' on p. 131 should be 'Dall's barrow', and 'Manna's cliff' on p. 132 should be 'Mann's cliff'. *Monkesdyche* on p. 131 is a genitive singular, and should be translated 'monk's dyke' rather than 'monks' dyke'. On p. 17, Whitelock's translation of King Alfred's bequest of land in Cornwall is given as follows:

to Edward my eldest son the land at Stratton in Trigg . . . and the lands which belong to it, namely all that I have in Cornwall except Trigg.

There is a typographical error here, as Whitelock translates *yldran* (correctly) as 'elder'; but more seriously, the truncated quotation distorts the text, giving the impression that 'the lands which belong to it' also relate to Stratton and were similarly bequeathed to Edward, rather than to Alfred's younger son. The true facts of the matter are made clear by the fuller quotation on pp. 103–04, where the correct translation 'elder' also appears.

The least satisfactory section of the book is the glossary of terms on pp. 231–33. This could have been extremely useful as an index to the contents of the charters, particularly if it had been extended to include descriptive terms and personal names. Since, however, no page references are given, it is impossible to trace occurrences of words within the text. The glossary also contains a high proportion of typographical errors. On pp. 232–33, length-marks are omitted from *græfe*, *sur apuldor* and *wīdig*, *crauwe* is mis-spelled as *crawa*, again with the length-mark omitted, *holegn* is mis-spelled as *holegne*, 'promontory' appears as 'promontoryl', and *odencolc* is listed among the Old English instead of the Cornish terms. At the beginning of the glossary on p. 231, readers are directed to Smith's *English Place-Name Elements* (of which vol. II only is listed in the bibliography), to Gelling's *Place-Names in the Landscape* (which is not listed in the bibliography), to Padel's *Cornish Place-Name Elements*, and to Toller's very outdated *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* (which is not listed in the bibliography), but not to the new and superior *Dictionary of Old English* (A. C. Amos and A. di P. Healey, Toronto, 1986–), of which several fascicles have now been published.

In sum, this book makes accessible a corpus of material which will be of great value to students of land use, language, and landscape history. It does not, however, conform to the highest standards of accuracy and presentation, and must therefore be used with some caution.

CAROLE HOUGH

E. WALLACE MCMULLEN (ed.), *Names New and Old: Papers of the Names Institute*, published by the editor, 1994. Obtainable from Professor Wayne H. Finke, American Name Society, Department of Modern Languages, Box 340, Baruch College, 17 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010, U.S.A.: 361 pp., \$28 US, \$32.00 Canadian, elsewhere \$ 50.00 US

The American Name Society meets once a year, usually between Christmas and New Year, in conjunction with the Modern Language Association of America, and therefore at venues sufficiently large to accommodate many thousands of participants. Although these annual meetings in large cities serve their purpose well, they are clearly insufficient to satisfy the members of a comparatively small society in an enormous country. When Wallace McMullen, one of the A.N.S. stalwarts, decided, in 1962, to hold an annual Names Institute at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, he was therefore meeting an obvious need for a smaller, more informal and more personal gathering of name scholars, amongst themselves, so to speak. The fact that this annual Names Institute is still continuing—although it has more recently moved to New York City, where it is now organised by Wayne H.



Finke of Baruch College, the Secretary-Treasurer of the A.N.S.—supports the claim that its existence is indeed needed; the formation of other, more or less similar, institutes elsewhere in the United States and Canada, owing their being to the Fairleigh Dickinson model, also testifies to the desirability of meeting regularly in smaller groups, away from the shadow of such a large organisation as the Modern Language Association.

There have been no published 'Proceedings' of these gatherings, but in 1980 a volume of selected papers, covering the years 1962–1979, was published under the title *Pubs, Place-Names and Patronymics*. The volume under review, *Names New and Old*, is the second publication to reflect the activities of the Institute, in this case during the last seven years (1980–1986) while it was held at Fairleigh Dickinson, under Wallace McMullen's guidance. Papers chosen from those delivered at the Institute during that period have been augmented by others read on other occasions, or were written by regular Institute participants, to make a total of twenty-five. The roster of their authors reads like a large section of 'Who's Who in American Name Studies': Richard Randall, Donald Orth, Alan Rayburn, Allen Walker Read, Robert M. Rennick, Meredith F. Burrill, Leonard R. N. Ashley, Kelsie B. Harder, and, of course, Wallace McMullen himself.

Their topics are as varied as those normally found on the Institute's programmes, and are organised under the headings: Geographic Names (both International Names and Names in the United States), Names in Literature, Personal Names, and Various Other Names. It would be impossible to do them all justice in a brief review; however, a selective list of them may convey a flavour of the large variety of approaches, subjects, perspectives, and methods which are represented in this volume: General, almost theoretical, approaches include Richard R. Randall's 'Political changes and new names' (pp. 5–14), Donald J. Orth's 'Motive in placenaming' (pp. 15–26), Alan Rayburn's 'Promoting the study of names as a scholarly discipline in north America' (pp. 39–46), Meredith F. Burrill's 'Toponymy and cultural history' (pp. 113–24), Kelsie B. Harder's 'Literary names mainstreamed as given names' (pp. 231–42), and Roger W. Westcott's 'The phonology of proper names in English' (pp. 301–30). At the other end of the scale, focusing on specific details, are, for example, Benjamin Nuñez's 'Proto-Portuguese toponymics on the West African coast in the fifteenth century' (pp. 27–38), Allen Walker Read's 'The rivalry of names for the rocky mountains of North America' (pp. 47–60), Irving Lewis Allen's 'Informal names for wealthy neighborhoods in American cities' (pp. 105–12), Penelope Scambly Schott's 'Rosamond: poison and contamination' (pp. 261–76), Douglas P. Hinkle's 'Street-language naming practices in the Hispanic drug and underworld cultures' (pp. 293–300), and Walter P. Bowman's 'Musical names: the titles of symphonies' (pp. 311–18). Not surprisingly, literary onomastics is

particularly well represented, encompassing the study of names in works by authors such as Brat Easton Ellis, Charlotte Brontë, Anna Seghers, Molière, Baltasar Gracián, and Anthony Trollope, and also including a survey of 'Fictional heroes of horror and fear'. Apart from the last paper, these contributions accurately reflect the continuing preoccupation of both literary and name scholars with the investigation of the use or function of names in specific works by specific authors. Perhaps the limited format of conference papers encourages such an approach.

That in such a wide-ranging collection of papers the quality may turn out to be somewhat uneven is perhaps only to be expected, and one does not have to be overly critical to wish occasionally that the riskful step from description to analysis and interpretation had been taken more frequently and with more assurance, but both the authors and the editor (and organiser of the Institute) are to be applauded for their enthusiastic engagement with matters onomastic and their commitment to giving names a chance. Above all, the fascination with names, which itself was such a drawing force for the gatherings at Fairleigh Dickinson University, echoes through these papers for the benefit of those of us who did not have the privilege to be present on those occasions.

The provision of reprints of actual conference programmes, of a list of programme participants, and of an index of 'Abstracts and Topics of the Annual Programs of the Name Institute, 1980–86' (pp. 358–61) reinforces the feeling of nostalgia for those who were there, and of regret for those who were not. This volume is a valuable record of a laudable and, if the two Institutes which I was able to attend in the seventies are anything to go by, very enjoyable enterprise from which many have benefited and which has contributed to giving onomastic pursuits in North America a good name.

W. F. H. NICOLAISEN

## Bibliography for 1993

Carole Hough

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## Nominal Value, II

by Ratoun

*The Rise of the House of Blobby*

1994 began with a flush of publicity for a piece of psoriatic blancmange invented by the B.B.C., called *Mr Blobby*. It was only a matter of time before it had a pedigree to match the best expectations of a humble family historian; dingy people who live in archives discovered that there was a *de Blobi* family living in Oxford in the thirteenth century, who appear to have kept a genetic secret well under wraps for 700 years. But these days a gaping press cheque book can prise open practically any family tragedy.

*Where will it all end?*

*The Sunday Cuckoo Clock* (27/3/94, p. 1.7) tells us that double-barrelled surnames are 'being adopted with unseemly alacrity by the lower classes'. Hyphenated names have increased sixfold in a generation, whilst such as the traditional *Plunkett-Ernle-Ernle-Draxes* (a multiple mortar, no less) are reducing their firepower to a single barrel *Drax* (small bore). Reasons given include the commemoration of adoptive or step-parents, adoption of partner's surname in addition to one's own, and EFFECT. My landed relatives, the Rowe-Dents, would not approve.

*New feature: Itinerarium Rodentium*

One gets out and about a bit, and is always on the lookout for nominal nugues to deflect attention from tedious tarmac. This year: **Cleethorpes to Stamford**. We spot, before starting, that erstwhile North Lincolnshire's attempts to escape from the political clutches of Humberside are not what they seem. 'A key argument in the campaign to get rid of Humberside was its name. It was universally loathed.' (*Grimsby Evening Telegraph*, 28/12/94, front page comment.) I find it hard to imagine that the good folks here would have been more equable about the same boundaries around a *Hullshire* or *Beverleyshire*.

Start in **Cleethorpes**. Notice some street-names formed in Australian aboriginal languages: Oole Road, Yarra Road. A scoop! Pass the Short'n'Curly's Unisex Salon and take five minutes to recover my composure.

**Grimsby**. Observe the Tractarian church of St Augustine with a notice outside advertising a mother and toddler group called *The Young Hippos*. Very droll, but I shall not be nesting under the floorboards there.

**Horncastle**. Bristle as I pass *Banovallum School*. The textual scholar in me is up in arms: Horncastle is recorded only once in ancient times and the various MSS of the Ravenna Cosmography offer *Bannovallum*, *Bannoualum*, *Baunoualum*. So what bright spark invented a different spelling? And what County Council committee endorsed it? Reminded of the scholar who described a certain native tribal grouping as 'apparently rather dense hereabouts'—but not very strongly, as I can't remember who it was. I do not calm down till the Sleaford bypass. Only partly mollified by noticing a Horncastle thoroughfare called The Wong on one side and just Wong on the other. Muse on whether the definite article is part of the name, in general. Will take it up in NOMINAL VALUE, III.

**Coningsby**. Espy *Ratty's Free House*. Do not enter despite a pang of kinship. Maybe it was the real McCoy: it is not long before a sign to *Five Willow Wath* appears (endorsed 'bridge closed to motors'—hm, you know what I'm thinking).

**North Kyme**. Well now, a Latin name if ever I saw one. A *cima*, popular word for the crest of a tall object (hence 'peak' in Portuguese, Castilian, Venetian, Standard Italian, and *cime* in French; similarly also *cim* in Catalan, *cimo* in Portuguese); and Brittonic in transmission (Pr.W. \**cīv*), then English and then Scandinavian. No matter that this is pancakeoid Fenland and that the natural land in the parish shows no eminences over knee height. Ferret out elderly 1" OS map and notice that the western boundary of the parish (and that of South Kyme) is formed by the embanked Roman canal called *Car Dike*. Told you so. And two miles away is a strategically-placed Walcot. Euphoria dispels when I get out DEP N at home and discover early-medieval spellings like *Chimba*, *Kimbe*. And how does the Master interpret this? OE \**cymbe* 'tub', referring to a depression in the ground. A sixth-century depression round here would have been a lake. Surely that can't be right. Small prize offered for showing me that you can get hypercorrect addition of a stem-final *b* in early ME and that crests worth the name can be less than 10' high.

**Stamford** and its corporation. Note a pub called *The Daniel Lambert* (5' 10" tall, 52 stone at death), around two corners from which is *The Fat Boys* bar. And *Burghley House* just over the river. Can this all be coincidence? And what a drinking companion the adjacent Soke of Peterborough must have provided.

#### *Street-names*

Sparks flew in Storrington (Sussex) when Horsham Council, the competent authority, decided to call a new development *Mustchins* (after a previous owner, a coal merchant, and a jolly good 'manorial' name) instead of the promised *Church Grove* ([Brighton] *Evening Argus*, 11/11/94, p. 9). Residents feared it would get confused with *Munchkins*. *Mustchins*, they said, was 'a confusing name, difficult to pronounce, spell or remember correctly'. Such considerations have not deterred Hampshire County Council from trying to restore the old name of Waverley Road, Southsea: *Saxe Weimar Road*, renamed early in the fit of Bocheophobia in 1916–17. ('Unpronounceability' has occasionally been used as a sociolinguistic weapon against anglophones. One is reminded of the English hiker in the Parc Cenedlaethol yr Eryri, who asked the guide how to pronounce *B-w-l-c-h*. He was told: 'Just the way it's spelt'.) Elsewhere in Storrington, residents want *Banks Croft* (after a councillor) to be *Lime Grove*. What is it about stands of (possibly non-existent) trees that excites the English middle classes so? They have a precedent to battle against; residents of Lewes could not dissuade the council from calling a new relief road *Maybew Way* (I think I've got the last latter of the specifier the right way up) after two or three (ex-)councillors, despite making such suggestions as *Not Wanted Road* and *Eyesore Avenue* (*Sussex Express*, 22/7/94). Would that more names of this interesting sort got past the planning committees—or more realistically, would that people continued to use such names in defiance of the official ones, so that they stood a change of longer-term success. Has *Gravelly Hill Interchange* given way to *Spaghetti Junction* yet? (Beryl Bainbridge, in her *English journey* (Flamingo (1985), p. 151) seems to think this is in Bradford—has someone taken a tuck across the north Midlands?)

#### *Econymy*

A new survey by the Halifax Building Society (reported in *The Relieving Officer*, 15/10/94, p. 69) concludes that house-naming itself is

naff, as are the top fifty UK house-names. Most of them allude to trees (hello, we've been here before). (The Family Assurance Friendly Society also did a survey coming to similar conclusions, but did not respond to my request for further information.) Only a handful display some whimsical originality, like the acronymic *Cobwebs* ('Currently Owned By the Woolwich Equitable Building Society') noted by Leslie Dunkling. The Family apparently believes that such names as *Funny Farm* and *Chevy Chase* are 'creative'. Other Halifax stories are depressing, like the one about *Shan-Shui* (in 'Silvertown' [Silverton? - R.], Devon), which the current owner believes means 'the little house with a stream at the end of the garden', but she's not sure in which language. A sinologist friend informs me that this is really Mandarin *shan' shui*, literally 'mountains rivers', i.e. 'landscape'. Difficult to fault in any location, really.

#### *The French confection*

Miles Kington (*The Indefensible*, 20/7/94, p. 13) worries about French word-order in place-names—why *Castle Howard* or *Mount Pleasant*, rather than the other way round? (He spoils it by thinking that *Market Harborough* is the same sort of thing.) But Beryl Bainbridge reminds us that we can be exotic without compromising our English habits (*op. cit.*, p. 54). She visits the Cadbury domains at Bournville and tells us that 'The ville on the end of Bourn was added because anything French sounded naughty but nice'.

#### *Hipponymy*

In NOMINAL VALUE, I (*Nomina*, 17) I promised you choice examples of hipponymic syntax. Randomly lighting on the cards for 2/9/94, I observe the desyntacticized *Thisonesforalice* [*sic*] in the 8.30 at Wolverhampton and *I'llleaveittoyou* [*sic*] in the 2.00 at Haydock, and the incomparable *As Sharp As* in the latter race too. There was no answer to *Are You Happy* in the 3.50 at Stratford. *Upex Le Gold Too* went in the 4.15 at Thirsk, and I must confess that I hadn't expected to be left so thoroughly discomfited when I promised you this feature.

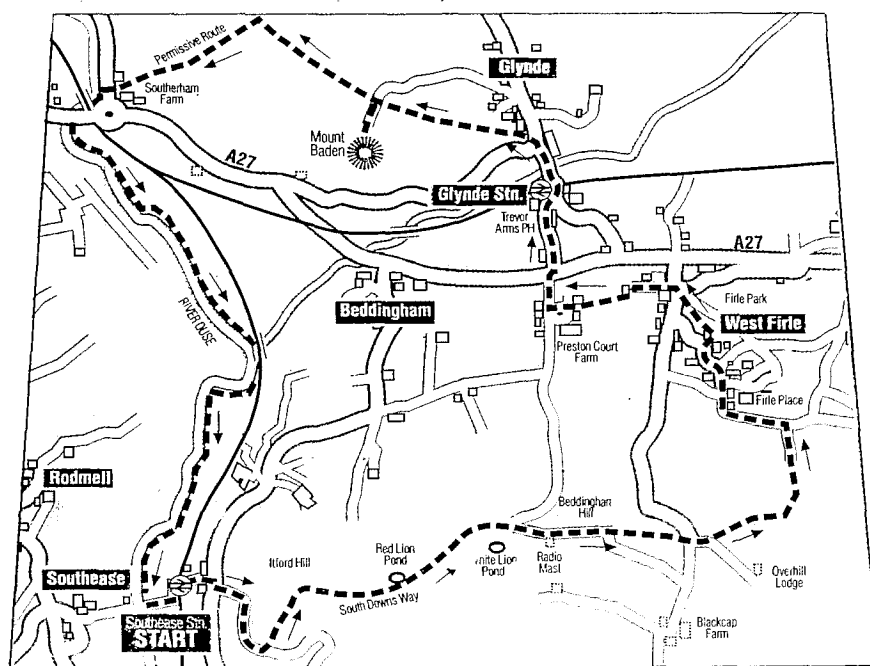
#### *Omne animal triste est*

In *Cat World* 194 (April 1994)—which I read as humans read books about vampires—appeared an article about names for cats. Amidst the explanations people proudly give for the humiliations heaped on their pets are one or two nuggets of wider interest. Deterministic theories of

naming can never be adequate; one correspondent says she wanted to call her cat *Snurge* after the racehorse [no pub yet! – R.] AND the sound that cats make when washing their belly fur. Another contributor says the names people give reflect upon the namer, and she's not sure she likes that idea. 'My next cat . . . would be called something plain and uncontroversial. Pussy.'

*And finally . . .*

I thought I should let you know that the identity of the site of the battle of Mons Badonicus has been settled by the [Brighton] *Evening Argus*, 30/7/94, weekend supplement, p. 16. No further comment.



More ratiocinations in the fullness of time

Ratoun  
School of Onymy  
Namier University