

As far as the Scots component of place-names goes, Watson lays great weight on the first appearance of a word in the written record, as given by *The Concise Scots Dictionary*.¹ However, it must be borne in mind that, in the pre-Reformation period, our sources for written Scots are limited, and a word could well have been in use many centuries before it is first recorded, and could have generated place-names at any time during its period of use.

The local pronunciation of a place-name is extremely important in any attempt to reconstruct a meaning. For example, the stress-patterns of the original language can survive in a place-name for centuries after the language which gave rise to that place-name has died, giving an essential clue to its meaning. It is therefore to be regretted that pronunciation is scarcely mentioned under any of the names in the *Gazetteer*. And the uninitiated reader is left simply to guess how to pronounce such intriguing names as Balcanqhal, Balquhandy and Pittuncarty.

Whatever the shortcomings of Watson's work, however, this book is still a must for all who love the Ochils and their history, as well as all who are captivated by—to use Watson's own words—the intrinsically fascinating subject of place-names. It is also an essential, if incomplete, reference work for anyone working in the area, be they involved in archaeology, history, historical geography, or the history and development of language, both Gaelic and Scots.

SIMON TAYLOR

Från götarna till Noreens kor: Hyllningskrift till Lennart Elmevik på 60-årsdagen 2 februari 1996, edited by Eva Brylla, Svante Strandberg and Mats Wahlberg. Skrifter utgivna genom Ortnamnsarkivet i Uppsala, Serie B. Meddelanden 11, 1996. 216 pp., paperback (no price stated).

The eighteen short articles published in this collection illustrate the variety and quality of research currently in progress in the field of Swedish onomastics. Several contributions offer new light on place-name etymologies, while others deal with topics as diverse as personal-names on runestones, bynames in fifteenth-century account books, and cattle-names in an eighteenth-century estate inventory. The standard of presentation is consistently high, and all papers include a substantial bibliography.

Some of the studies make available comparative evidence of potential value to British researchers. Per Vikstrand discusses the interpretation of place-names containing Old Swedish *skialf*, *skiaelf*, and presents the findings of a field survey of twenty-two *skälv*-sites in Sweden (pp. 201–08). Almost all were found to have a small summit with shelf-like rock-ledges or plateaux. This not only supports a topographical as opposed to a religious

¹ Edited by M. Robinson (Aberdeen, 1985).

interpretation, but suggests a much more precise topographical referent than is evidenced in English place-names from the cognate Old English *scelf*, for which five distinct categories of meaning have been identified.¹ W. F. H. Nicolaisen has recently made a strong plea for international collaboration in the investigation of such cognate pairs, with a view to establishing whether or not a distinctive Northwest Germanic onomastic vocabulary may be identified;² and a detailed comparison of the Swedish and English *skälv/scelf* names would be highly relevant in this context.

Also of interest are Eva Brylla's study of Old Swedish masculine bynames in *-a* (pp. 59–67) and Lennart Hagåsen's discussion of Swedish place-names from *mole* 'breakwater, mole' (pp. 99–106). (The English cognate *mole* 'pier' does not, so far as I am aware, occur in place-names in the British Isles.) Lennart Ryman makes a good case for a pre-Christian origin for the personal-name elements *Böt-* and *Likn-*, *-likn* (pp. 131–43), arguing against the view that *Böt-* was introduced by Christians in seventh-century England. Thorsten Andersson reviews the proposed etymologies for the tribal designations Swedish *götar*, Old West Scandinavian *gautar*, Primitive Germanic **gautōz*, rejecting a topographically-based derivation in favour of an original meaning 'men' (pp. 33–50).

All papers have summaries in English, with the exception of the single English-language contribution, Karl Inge Sandred's examination of 'The boundaries of Godmersham in Kent as described in BCS 378' (pp. 145–56). This is a fine analysis, first published in Swedish in 1965 (*Namn och Bygd*, 53), and here updated to take account of Paul Cullen's excellent work on Kentish place-names. However, if the aim of the translation is to make the article more accessible to British name scholars, it is perhaps a little unfortunate that it has been published here instead of in an English-language journal. As a specialised collection of articles on Swedish onomastics, *Från götarna till Noreens kor* is unlikely to be widely available in libraries outside Scandinavia, and so British scholars may still have to fall back on their copy of *Namn och Bygd*.

CAROLE HOUGH

¹ M. Gelling, *Place-Names in the Landscape* (London, 1984), pp. 186–87.

² 'Is there a Northwest Germanic toponymy? Some thoughts and a proposal', in *Nordwestgermanisch*, edited by E. Marold and C. Zimmermann (Berlin, 1995), pp. 103–14.

È. A. MAKAEV, *The Language of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions: a linguistic and historical-philological analysis*, translated by John Meredig in consultation with Elmer H. Antonsen. Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar, Filologisk-filosofiska serien 21: Stockholm, 1996. 137 pp., paperback, no price stated.

I have often wondered what a 'time-warp' was, and now I know. Dr Makaev's book first appeared, in Russian, in 1965, and was then read and admired by Professor Antonsen. The latter supported the present translation into English ('a salutary scholarly event') so that Makaev's arguments could be promulgated to a wider audience. In 1965, Makaev remarked that 'at the present time' the 'most complete, authoritative, and convenient edition of all runic inscriptions written in the 24-character fuþark is W. Krause's monograph of 1937'. (The second edition of Wolfgang Krause's corpus, in collaboration with Herbert Jankuhn, *Die Runeninschriften im älteren Futhark*, did not appear until 1966.) Krause's 1937 material Makaev supplemented by the addition of sixteen further inscriptions found up to 1963. Thus his attempt to bring rigour and discipline into some aspects of runic studies was between thirty and sixty years out of date by the time this translation was published, and no effort was made to drag it kicking and screaming into the 1990s, to incorporate the immense amount of new work done on the early runes in recent years.

Makaev defines his subject precisely: he 'understands the older runic inscriptions to be those written in the 24-character common Germanic alphabet . . . which belong approximately to the 3d to 7th centuries C.E.' He lists just under 150 items, many of their texts stigmatised as 'Unclear', while the interpretations of others are uncertain. In presenting this material, he divides his book into two parts, 1. Research; 2. The data.

To take the data part first. A check against one of the more recent of many publications—for example, Marie Stoklund's survey, 'Die Runen der römischen Kaiserzeit'¹—shows how much is missing from the Makaev list: the Skovgårde/Udby brooch, found 1988; the nine important Illerup finds (1977–92); the Vimose spearhead (1984); the knife fragment from Møllegårdsmarken (1992); the Nydam axe-haft (1993). In consequence, the data section lacks important lexical items like the personal names **lamo**, **swarta**, **þwagnijo**, **niþijo**, **gaupR**, **wagagastiR** and the weak past verbal forms **þalgida**, **tawide** (a second example supplementing that from Stenmagle). The Nøvling brooch (found 1963) seems to be a late addition (p. 81, but added in the supplementary list on p. 15). Its inscription, **bidawarijaR talgidai**

¹ Ulla Lund Hansen and others, *Himlingeje-Seeland-Europe* (Copenhagen, 1995), pp. 317–46.

'bidawarijaR inscribed', the verbal form contrasting with Skovgårde's **talgida**, also fails to get into the data section.

The Continental inscriptions, too, show an increase. Here there are a number of mini-corpora, as Stephan Opitz's *Südgermanische Runeninschriften im älteren Futhark aus der Merowingerzeit* (1977, revised 1980) and Klaus Düwel's splendid exhibition catalogue, *Schmuck und Waffen mit Inschriften aus dem ersten Jahrtausend* (Göttingen, 1995), while the excellent annual *Nytt om Runer* keeps us in touch with new finds. Such sources record a number of post-Makaev inscriptions, as the München-Aubing brooches (found 1939!), the Neudingen wooden staff, the Pforzen buckle (1991), and, if you believe them, the Weser runes; and most recently, the splendid finds from Wremen (Cuxhaven) (1994). From further afield are the Leţcani, Rumania, spindle-whorl (1968), and perhaps even one or two early inscriptions from England, as the Caistor-by-Norwich astragalus and the Watchfield plate. This set of inscriptions preserves name forms which have been read as **segalo**, **sigila**, **imuba**, **blipguþ**, **aigil**, **þaïlrun**, **raþo**. Any name scholar who uses Makaev's part 2 (the data) in the belief it represents the state of linguistic knowledge from early runic sources in 1995/6 will soon be disillusioned.

Within his discussion of research methods and problems, Makaev certainly has much sensible to say, though often he says it elliptically, and I, for one, would wish more. For example, he discusses the thorny question of absolute and relative chronology in runic studies, with some scepticism about dating an artefact precisely, even using all the archaeological expertise available. This is certainly a central problem in runic studies (and of course, even when one has dated an object or its deposit, one has not necessarily dated the inscription). I wonder how Makaev would have reacted to Düwel's date for the Neudingen staff, '568 (dendochronologisch)'. How far, in fact, has modern archaeological technique rendered some of Makaev's reservations invalid?

Indeed, Makaev stressed the impossibility of reaching absolute conclusions on the basis of linguistic material alone in his discussion of the runic koiné, 1, chapter 2. It is both amusing and regrettable that runologists seem to be fertile in producing varieties of interpretation of the same small group of runic letters, and then expressing their interpretations as though they are facts (as Michael P. Barnes complained in his excellent 'On types of argumentation in runic studies').¹ Early in his book, Makaev defines as the 'foremost task in runology today . . . the intensive development of a methodology that will enable us to interpret the oldest runic inscriptions and come to unambiguous conclusions, objectively and without contradictions, based first and foremost on the runic data themselves.' This is indeed a formidable

¹ *Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Runes and Runic Inscriptions . . .*, edited by James E. Knirk (Uppsala, 1994), pp. 11–29.

task. Is it even an achievable one? The new data I have listed show something of the problem. Stocklund identified **talgida**, **talgidai** as verbal forms. Ottar Grønvik objects, on the argument that the final vowel of such a third person singular past weak verb should be represented by the rune **e**. In consequence, he takes **talgida** as a noun, 'carver', though this presents him with a troublesome final **i** in **talgidai**, which he can only explain satisfactorily to those willing to suspend disbelief.¹ Indeed, anyone who reads through the tale of runic studies over many decades now will recognise how hard it is to reach unambiguous conclusions about meanings of texts from the runic data alone, whether in fact rune-masters were precise and consistent enough to make discrete linguistic analysis of their texts rewarding.

Makaev sees this problem as soluble by creating principles of relative chronology of the older inscriptions and analysing the relationship between graphemes and phonemes. I am not clear how that will solve the thorny problem of the intellectual context of any inscription, or how modern theories about the early bog inscriptions and their relationship to social rank and status will be illuminated by purely linguistic techniques. Makaev seems to have recognised this problem, but put it aside, though any observant traveller through the world of the 1990s will have seen inscriptions that are baffling unless understood within their broader cultural context—my latest favourite is a sign in the window of a Cambridge bookshop that reads: 'Reduced Academic on First Floor'.

To sum up. Makaev produced a book which was, in its time, tantalising and testing. It now looks outdated and rather desolate, as indeed Antonsen admits in his prefatory note. It is a pity that its translator and publisher did not try to bring some of its materials (and so perhaps its arguments) up to date. But that would have been to write a different book. Meanwhile, name scholars may read this with interest, but only with limited profit.

R. I. PAGE

Slektsnamn i Norden, edited by KRISTOFFER KRUKEN, NORNA-Rapporter vol. 58. NORNA-Förlaget: Uppsala, 1995. 233 pp., 6 figures and 2 maps, no price stated.

Surnames in the Nordic Countries is the proceedings of NORNA's twenty-first symposium held in Oslo in September, 1992; fifteen of the sixteen papers given then are published here in Scandinavian, fourteen with English abstracts, but one short paper and (perhaps importantly) the conclusion by Mats Wahlberg without such summaries. The geographical coverage includes not only Denmark, Sweden and Norway, but also Finland and the Faroes.

Although Scandinavian influence on 'British' personal names has been direct, these papers may perhaps best be approached from the perspective of their insights into different personal name cultures.

Several principal themes emerge: the development of by-names (*tilnavn* or *tillnamn*) and family names (*slektsnamn*, *släktnamn* or *slægstnavn*) and their semantic differences; patronymic (sic) forms in relation to other forms; the use of farm or homestead names in personal names; the effects of the personal and place-name regulations and acts introduced in all these countries at some stage during the twentieth century; and (rather obliquely) competing cultural traditions of personal naming.

Particularly interesting are the two papers on Finnish personal names by Paikkala and Furuberg, both illustrating competing cultures. The former describes the resurgence of Finnish naming processes after 1850 contesting Swedish hegemony, whilst Furuberg focusses more closely on the Forest Finns who resisted Swedish cultural intrusion and preserved their own personal naming culture over the three hundred years to 1900 in the form of a rather complex compounded identification of the first name + patronymic + family name + farm name.

To the outsider, however, this compound form looks remarkably similar to some other hereditary forms documented by other contributors. For example, Nedrelid's analysis of the 1801 Norwegian census concentrates on a form of name compounded of first name + patronymic + farm-name which was hereditary in sixty per cent of cases, associated with aspiring social groups. In Dalarna (Larsson), between 1680 and 1900, compounded names consisted of 'farm-related personal name' + forename + patronymic. No doubt what seem slight variations reflected significant differences of naming traditions.

Readers of this journal more interested in place-names may find more of interest in the several papers which refer to the standardization of place names and the use of experts to determine their forms. Svanevik describes in detail the official standardization in Norway over the last 150 years, culminating in the Norwegian Place-Names Act 1990, which has complicated the relationship between personal names containing themes or elements from farms or homesteads, and official place-names.

This volume is another impressive addition to the important NORNA series. This reviewer has only one slight regret: that some of the abstracts are less forthcoming than others, to the extent of simply describing objectives rather than imparting many conclusions.

DAVE POSTLES

¹ 'Bøyle-nålene fra Udby og Nøvling: to runeinnskrifter fra tidlig urnordisk tid', *Third International Symposium*, pp. 45-57.

MICHAEL PAFFARD, *A Gardener's Book of Names*. New Millennium: London, 1995. xii + 257 pp., £7.95 (ISBN 1 85845 0349).

In a garden, there should be time to reflect on everything, and so it is with this anthology of horticultural nomenclature, which ranges from plants to birds, to slugs and snails, to worms, insects, and even to botanists. The book is divided into twenty short chapters, each dealing with various aspects of garden names and their history, from the plants of the vegetable patch and flower border to the insects and birds that are attracted by their roots, leaves and fruits. It should be added that very little of this book is concerned with 'names' in the narrower sense normally used in this journal (proper nouns), as most of it concerns common nouns.

The book is not intended to be a definitive inventory of the origins of plant-names. These already exist.¹ It is written instead as a guided onomastic garden tour. In the discussion of how plants get their names, Paffard starts with Theophrastus (died 285 B.C.) and shows that the vernacular terms of the classical world are, in many cases, the origin of present-day names, both common and scientific. This section provides a readable and fascinating list of examples of the different ways in which plants have derived their names. The classical Greek 'Asphodel' for a white Mediterranean lily begat the English 'Affodil', which was still current and synonymous with 'Daffodil' in Turner's *Names of Herbs* in 1548.

The historical and regional diversity of the English language also contributes to the variety of plant names, and Paffard provides numerous examples of synonyms, such as *gorse*, *furze* and *whin*, which are the respective Celtic (supposedly), Old English and Scandinavian (probably) names for *Ulex europaeus*. Similarly, *willow* (Old English), *osier* (Norman French) and *withy* (wrongly stated to be Scandinavian) are all vernacular terms for species of *Salix*. This pattern continues through *heath* and *heather* (Old English) to *ling* (Scandinavian).

Plants are the great travellers of the world, and use everything, from the wind to man, to traverse frontiers that can present linguistic barriers to other objects. Paffard discusses a number of examples of how migration has affected plant nomenclature. The common herb, horseradish, has its origins in south-east Europe and western Asia. It was already known in tenth-century Germany as *Meerrettich*, denoting originally *Mehr* 'a large plant', and *Rettich* from the Latin *radix* 'root'. *Mehr* was later altered to *Meer* in German, as it was realized that the plant had come from overseas. *Horseradish* was the mistranslation of the English herbalist, John Gerard (1545–1612). Medicinal

¹ A. J. Coombes, *Dictionary of Plant Names* (London, 1989); H. Gilbert-Carter, *Glossary of the British Flora* (Cambridge, 1950); D. Gledhill, *The Names of Plants* (Cambridge, 1989).

plants have also been sought from distant parts, and the origins of the word *rhubarb* reflect the travels of a plant that was valued originally more as a purgative than a dessert. *Rheum rhaponticum* was used to provide a drug called *Rheum*, denoting an ancient source of the plant by the river Rha (Volga). The Greeks called it *rha barbaron*—the *rha* of the foreigners, and *ponticum* in the modern scientific name denotes its southerly route from the Volga to the Black Sea and thence to Europe.

The book pursues its garden tour through annuals, perennials, pot plants, shrubs, climbers, rock plants and weeds. Chapters devoted to each of these categories provide alphabetical lists of names (both scientific and vernacular) with their derivations. Gardens are home to other living things apart from plants, and there is an informative chapter on the origins and history of English names of birds. 'Ouzel cock' for blackbird, and 'thistle-tweaker' for goldfinch are names with some antiquity, but 'warbler' was coined by Gilbert White's friend and correspondent, and intrepid traveller, Thomas Pennant, in 1773.

A somewhat whimsical contemplation of house-names (The Laurels, etc.), is followed by a more serious discussion of the vocabulary pertaining to garden architecture, followed by an examination of the names of famous botanists which takes the reader briefly into the realm of place-names. The book concludes by returning to the world of biology, with an alphabetical perusal of the origins of the names of some of our commoner insects, from ants to weevils. The multi-faceted interests that are developed from the garden setting are pursued with much insight and understanding of both biology and onomastics, and the author is to be congratulated on having the imagination to conceive this work, and the expertise to bring it successfully to completion.

ROBERT M. M. CRAWFORD

Words, Names and History. Selected Papers of Cecily Clark, edited by PETER JACKSON. D. S. Brewer: Woodbridge, 1995. xxviii + 448 pp., £65.00

A collection of articles and reviews by the late Cecily Clark has been edited by Peter Jackson in a handsome volume that all name scholars will wish to possess—though sadly, not all will be able to afford. The twenty-seven studies selected for inclusion are grouped into four main sections, representing different aspects of the author's wide-ranging research interests. The first and most varied, 'Studies in History, Literature and Language', begins with Clark's seminal study of 'The narrative mode of *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* before the Conquest', deservedly one of the most widely-cited and influential discussions of Old English prose style. Her central contention, that the austere and colourless phraseology of the initial sections of the *Chronicle* reflects a deliberate genre choice rather than a primitive crudity of style,

threw new light on the motives and methods of the early annalists, and the whole essay is a highly sensitive and perspicacious analysis of the *Chronicle's* development from an objective record of events to interpreted history. It is followed here by an important article on *The Battle of Maldon* which did much to check a growing movement in the 1970s and 1980s towards dating the poem to the early eleventh rather than the late tenth century, and by shorter pieces entitled 'Certains aspects de l'hagiographie anglo-latine de l'Angleterre anglo-normande', and '*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*: characterisation by syntax'. The latter, one of three studies of *Gawain* published by Clark between 1955 and 1971, is essential reading for all serious students of the poem, presenting a masterly analysis of the poet's use of literary style to differentiate the speeches of the main characters. It is only a pity that the other two pieces could not also have been reproduced here. The final piece in this section is Clark's chapter on 'Women in England after 1066: the factual evidence' from *Women in Anglo-Saxon England and the Impact of 1066*, a book written in collaboration with Christine Fell and Elizabeth Williams: another excellent choice, although one misses the illustrations that originally accompanied the text.

The second and most substantial section comprises thirteen 'Essays on Onomastics', sub-divided into 'Principles and Methodology', 'Post-Conquest England: General Studies', and 'Post-Conquest England: Case-Studies'. Several articles focus on the use of personal names in the study of demographic history, an approach central to much of Clark's most innovative work. They include 'Clark's First Three Laws of Applied Anthroponymics', an insightful methodological article exploring the value of Scandinavian personal names in twelfth- and thirteenth-century records as evidence for Viking settlement-patterns, and 'Women's names in post-Conquest England: observations and speculations', a study which not only demonstrated that women's names in Anglo-Norman society were a generation or so slower than men's names to adopt the new fashions, but extrapolated important information concerning social and cultural attitudes in twelfth-century England. The potential as well as the problems of name-evidence are brilliantly evaluated in Clark's well-known essay on 'Historical linguistics—linguistic archaeology', and the strength of her approach is further illustrated in case-studies such as 'Some early Canterbury surnames', 'Battle c.1100: an anthroponymist looks at an Anglo-Norman new town', 'The early personal names of King's Lynn: an essay in socio-cultural history', and '*Willelmus rex? vel alius Willelmus?*'. Also emphasising the interdisciplinary framework of personal-name studies is a new piece on 'Socio-economic status and individual identity: essential factors in the analysis of Middle English personal-naming', printed here in advance of publication in *Naming, Society and Regional Identity* (edited by David Postles).

Another major theme is the balance of languages between French and English in the immediate post-Conquest period, a topic which Clark investigated in a 1976 study of 'People and languages in post-Conquest Canterbury' and returned to in the early 1990s with a trilogy of pieces challenging the established dogma concerning the influence of Anglo-Norman speakers and scribes on the pronunciation and spelling of English place-names. The first to appear, 'Towards a reassessment of "Anglo-Norman influence on English place-names"', overturned theories which had been accepted uncritically for some eighty years, while the two subsequent articles, on 'Domesday Book—a great red-herring: thoughts on some late-eleventh-century orthographies' and 'The myth of "the Anglo-Norman scribe"', continued the demolition process and demonstrated the need for a fundamental re-thinking of the whole subject. It was unfortunate at the time that these three related pieces appeared in very disparate publications, none of them standard journals readily accessible to an interested readership. Their reprinting here within a single cover is a real service to scholarship.

Three pioneering articles on the *Liber Vitae* of Thorney Abbey make up the third section of the volume, presenting an exemplary description of the manuscript itself as well as detailed discussions of the names and their significance. Again, it is very useful for these to be brought together as a coherent group. The three essays reveal the full potential of confraternity books as historical sources, and have indeed provided the direct inspiration for further research, such as J. S. Moore's recent work on 'Family-entries in English *Libri Vitae*, c.1050 to c.1530'.¹ The completion by John Insley of Clark's projected edition of the Thorney Abbey *Liber Vitae* is eagerly awaited.

It is pleasing to see that Jackson has included some smaller pieces under the heading 'Divisions and Reviews', as these no less than the more substantial items illustrate the incisive and original quality of Clark's writing. Here are two enjoyable essays entitled 'Nickname-creation: some sources of evidence, "naive" memoirs especially' and 'The *Codretum* (whatever that may be) at Little Roborough', followed by four book reviews originally published in *Nomina*. Their selection from the very large number of rigorous and discerning reviews contributed over the years to *Nomina* and other journals must have been a difficult process. Particularly appropriate is the reproduction of Clark's review of Richard McKinley's *The Surnames of Sussex* (Oxford, 1988), a penetrating and constructive critique by the 'doyenne of anthroponymy' whose influence continues to be seen and acknowledged in the latest volume in the English Surnames Series.²

¹ *Nomina*, 16 (1992-93), 99-128, and 18 (1995), 77-117.

² David Postles, *The Surnames of Devon* (Oxford, 1995), p. xx.

Even in a collection of this substantial length, much high-quality material has had to be omitted from the output of so prolific a scholar. It is disappointing that none of the delightful 'Souris' pieces has found a place, and that so much of Clark's early work on language and literature is similarly unrepresented. The most serious omission, however, concerns the two essays on 'Onomastics' in the recent *Cambridge History of the English Language*.¹ Both are major surveys containing some of Clark's best and most mature writing; and taken together they present a systematic and up-to-date discussion of name-types during the Old and Middle English periods which to the best of my knowledge is unparalleled elsewhere. One can only assume that their non-inclusion in this volume was due either to length or to copyright difficulties.

Jackson has done a fine job of editing, presenting an immaculate text (the only typographical error noticed by this reviewer is in his Introduction) with occasional unobtrusive footnotes to supply cross-references or to explain the original context of the papers. It is regrettable that the incorporation of editorial footnotes within a single sequence has on occasion resulted in the renumbering of Clark's own, a practice which may lead to confusion in future citations and could easily have been avoided. But this is a very minor criticism of a really splendid volume. Individually, each of the essays included is a major piece of scholarship. Their cumulative effect is quite stunning. Jackson also provides a complete bibliography of Clark's published writings (plus three forthcoming items), together with a short *curriculum vitae* and the text of the address given by Peter Clemons at her memorial service. Worthy of special mention are the extensive indexes to medieval and modern personal names, to place-names, to words and phrases, and to manuscripts cited in the text. These have been compiled with meticulous care and occupy more than sixty pages of double columns, helping to transform the volume from a collection of articles into a work of reference. It is a worthy tribute to an outstanding scholar.

CAROLE HOUGH

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¹ Vol. I, *The Beginnings to 1066*, edited by R. M. Hogg (Cambridge, 1992), pp. 452–89; vol. II, *1066–1476*, edited by N. Blake (Cambridge, 1992), pp. 542–606.

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Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

Fourth Annual Study Conference: Durham 1995

The fourth annual study conference organised by the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland was held at Grey College, University of Durham, from 7 to 10 April 1995. The programme was organized by the Master of Grey College, Mr Victor Watts. It opened with an introductory lecture on the historical background of County Durham by Mr Roger Norris, who remarked on how much of the nineteenth-century industrial landscape had been developed out of existence in the last twenty years, and stressed the continuing importance of St Cuthbert in the historical imagination of people in the county.

On the Saturday morning, Mr David Parsons (Nottingham) spoke on 'Place-name evidence for Anglo-Saxon industry: the case of the salt-maker's ladle', expounding the Old English place-name element *lōt* with intriguing pictures of tools used in early modern English dyeing, Scottish clothworking, and American brickmaking, and appropriate dialect material. Dr Diana Whaley (Newcastle) pondered 'Anglo-Scandinavian problems in Cumbria', namely how to establish a balance of probability for the linguistic origin of particular place-names, the form of whose elements might make them either English or Norse (or sometimes other things). Mrs Jean Tsushima, secretary of the Huguenot and Walloon Research Association, spoke on 'Strangers in the Fens', showing how surprisingly little preserves in place-names the memory of appreciable numbers of Flemings, Frenchmen, and others who migrated to the Lincolnshire and East Anglian Fens during and after the drainage ventures of Sir Cornelius Vermuyden. Professor Kenneth Cameron, retired Director of the English Place-Name Survey, reiterated, with the aid of unusually detailed information concerning 'Scandinavian field-names in north-east Lincolnshire' in certain parishes, his long-held view that Scandinavian settlement of the Danelaw must have been of an order of magnitude larger than some historians are prepared to admit.

The Saturday afternoon was left free for exploration of Durham, including an exhibition of manuscripts in the Chapter House library

put on by Mr Norris. After tea, Dr Carole Hough of the Centre for English Name Studies (Nottingham) aired 'A reconsideration of some headword entries in Smith's *English Place-Name Elements*', including ones denoting dairy farms and more than one kind of bird and animal. Professor Mariane Blomqvist (Helsinki) spoke on 'The names of Finnish medieval towns'. All the towns she mentioned had both Swedish and Finnish names. Sometimes the two were phonetic variants of the same name, sometimes they developed in different directions from an identical older name, the occasional pair were completely different. Mr Peter Kitson (Birmingham) spoke on 'English and European river-names', showing how some of the etymologies of the oldest names in Ekwall's justly celebrated *English River Names* need to be modified in the light of what has been found out since its publication in 1928 about 'Old European' river-names in general, and exploring implications of their phonology and distribution for the identity and date of their first users. Names like Thames must have been coined by speakers of a lost Indo-European language or languages fairly close to, but not identical with, Celtic; the probability is that the culture called by archaeologists the 'Beaker Folk' represents, in Britain, a substantial immigration of the people concerned.

On the Sunday morning, Ms Susan Fitt of the Centre for Speech Technology Research (University of Edinburgh) gave a lecture which had resonances with both the last two on 'Nativization of names'. She described experiments aimed at outlining the procedures by which speakers of English adapt foreign names to their own linguistic patterns, or to what they know of a foreign language if they think a name belongs to it. The first difficulty was in getting an unbiased sample of native speakers! Mr Gerald Morgan (Aberystwyth) spoke on 'Naming Welsh women: decline and revival'. He drew attention to the curious fact that, copious as are the genealogical sources for early Wales, names of women recorded in them overlap scarcely at all with names of women saints or female characters in early literature, and remarked on use in contemporary North America of the Welsh men's names Meredith and Morgan as names for women. Dr John Insley (Heidelberg) spoke on 'Indo-Europeans, Germans and Anglo-Saxons'. His concern was with dithematic personal names, and in particular, with whether some names such as *hariwolafr* found in early runic

inscriptions should be classified linguistically as North or West Germanic.

The afternoon excursion had less to offer of strictly onomastic interest than usual. Being in an industrialized area, the focus was less on landscape than on ways of conceptualizing and colonizing it. St Paul's church, Jarrow, was visited, as was the small existing Bede Museum. The strange *ersatz* Mediterranean architecture of the much more ambitious project called 'Bede's World' could only be gazed on from outside, as Professor Rosemary Cramp and an assistant carried gardening equipment into its spacious grounds. The next stop, also separated from its object by iron railings, was at the reconstructed great gate of what may have been *Arbeia*, a Roman naval fort at South Shields. Closer acquaintance was made with Lot's Wife and other rock-stacks of character at Marsden Rock, where also dinner was taken in caves partly created by an eighteenth-century smuggler, Blaster Jack. Back at Durham, the Sunday evening discussion was, contrary to custom, tied to particular papers—understandably in that some lacked time for discussion when delivered, but still (in this reviewer's opinion) unfortunately, since it tended to inhibit the usual free flow of ideas. By far the most time was spent on Dr Whaley's, and much entertainment derived from it, thanks to an etymology suggested by Dr Gillian Fellows-Jensen for what D.W. mapped as '*Porgeneschal* c.1160', and rhetorical reactions by Professor Richard Bailey at the dinner of the International Society of Anglo-Saxons in 1989 and by people present now. The chair was taken by Dr Margaret Gelling, whose O.B.E. in the New Year Honours List was warmly applauded, as was Dr Prys Morgan's appointment to the Deputy Lord Lieutenancy of his native *gwlad*.

P. R. K

Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland.

Fifth Annual Study Conference: Nottingham 1996

The fifth annual study conference organized by the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland was held at Derby Hall, University of Nottingham, from 12 to 15 April 1996. The programme was organized by Dr David Parsons. It opened with a lecture on 'Place-names in the sixteenth century' by Mr Victor Watts, Master of Grey College, Durham. What struck him most was how often what had been fairly stable spelling-traditions in chancery and other offices at some distance from the place concerned were replaced by ones closer to local pronunciation as evidenced in modern times. Antiquarian invention of river-names and the relation between linguistic inventiveness in place-names and in literary authors such as Spenser and Drayton were naturally not neglected.

On the Saturday morning Mr Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig (Ordnance Survey, Dublin) spoke on 'early Irish ecclesiastical site-names' in east Galway, detecting possible differences in naming-patterns between what were from their inception Christian sites and ones taken over from pagan religion, and displaying the wide variety of hypocoristic and other forms that an individual Irish saint's name could take. Mr Graham Jones (Leicester) set forth distribution-maps of 'Place-name evidence for early Mercian kings'. This gave rise to lively discussion on how in place-names you tell a king from a less famous person of the same name. There followed a visit to an exhibition in the university library of local estate-maps and other documents of place-name interest and of the computer data-base systems being used to deal with them. In the afternoon Professor David Hey (Sheffield) demonstrated 'The use of Civil Registration Records, 1842-6, for establishing the distribution of surnames in England and Wales'. It seems that often when several places have an identical name, only one has given rise to its use as a current surname, and the registration of deaths before the growth of travel by railway can give strong indication which.

Mr Roger Price (Swansea) spoke on 'Welsh settlers in Ireland', showing that not only do surprisingly many surnames current in Ireland derive from Welsh place-names, especially in Pembrokeshire,

from which he guessed that 40% of rank and file settlers in the Norman period came, but the size of the Welsh contingent led to names like Walsh and Syce being much commoner in Ireland than in England and Wales, and Welsh Marcher history was a selecting factor in names from further afield (e.g. Brittany rather than Normandy). Dr Matthew Townend (St Hugh's, Oxford) pursued his vindication of the verse of Viking skalds as a rationally usable, albeit not fully reliable, source for Old English name-forms. Dr Simon Taylor (St Andrews) spoke on 'Generic element variation, with special reference to eastern Scotland'. The name-changes he was concerned with mostly, though not always, had to do with replacement of Pictish or British elements by Gaelic ones. He distinguished between 'substitution' of a commoner for a less common element, which was usually phonetically conditioned, and 'variation' between names originally connoting different aspects of an estate.

On the Sunday morning the annual general meeting of the Society passed off with admirable dispatch and quietness. Then Mr Fiachra Mac Gabhann (Queen's University, Belfast) gave with the aid of a capacious handout a conspectus of 'Place-names in north-east County Antrim'. He paid special attention to movement of people at various periods in both directions across the North Channel, with results such as reuse of the whirlpool-name Coire Bhreacáin off the west coast of Scotland. Miss Angharad Fychan (Aberystwyth) spoke on 'Some sources for the study of Welsh place-names', dwelling mainly on mountain areas fuller of sheep-walks than of human inhabitants. To several classes of literary document was joined memory of shepherds as recorded by early mountaineers, and of older people in converse with herself as she grew up. Mr Paul Cullen (Canterbury) closed the formal papers by displaying some curious recurrent compounds in place-names in east Kent.

The afternoon coach-trip took place under mainly lowering skies. As if the organizers had anticipated that, it consisted mainly in a visit to Southwell Minster. Dr Margaret Gelling did however induce an unscheduled field experiment to test the etymology of Lowdham. There was a consensus that it was not the little stream that was loud. Another place visited was Saxondale, in whose name *denu*, the common Old English word for any kind of 'valley' but especially a large and long one, was replaced as generic between the twelfth and fourteenth

centuries by the Middle English reflex of Old Norse *dalr*, which has the general sense, and of Anglian Old English *dæl* which originally denoted only steep-sided valleys. This was apt for the evening's general discussion, which focussed mainly on points raised by the papers of Messrs Jones and Taylor.

P. R. K.

Nominal value, III

by Ratoun

Article on the article

I promised, in Nominal Value II, that I would make a pronouncement on whether the definite article in such names as *The Carpenters' Arms* or *The Old Forge* (as a house-name, for instance) is part of the name or not. I think it is. Whilst it is there, it formally bears the weight of the presupposition of the existence of the object so named, and can thus hardly be outside the name-phrase; but it can be deleted over time without the cancellation of that presupposition. This means that any expression having the form *The X*, where whatever is in *X* is being used devoid of any lexical sense it may have, is an oddity. It means 'something called *X* whose existence is presupposed or taken for granted in the context of utterance'—a tautology if ever there was one in the case of opaque names like *The Cheviot*, since one can hardly do anything with an expression that can only be a name except presuppose the existence of the object so named! And that explains why the *the* is always redundant and deletable: whence pub-signs bearing the legend *Carpenters' Arms* (though seldom with the apostrophe, I'd guess) and houses labelled *Old Forge*. So it's a funny old thing—part of the name, but deprived of any substance, much as one has toenails as structurally integral parts of oneself, but removes the superfluous bits. (I'm aware that this isn't a knock-down argument; don't write to tell me.)

And my name is No-Name too

I have been digesting a book called *Nature in Downland*, published in 1900 by that polished stylist and patronizing *rentier* W. H. Hudson, and I quote here from pp. 263–64 of the 1923 edition without much comment.

I think that there is a vein of stupidity, which, running eastward from Hampshire, crops up in many places among the West Sussex downs. One day, seeing a youth harnessing a pony at a gate, I asked him the name of a hill over which I had just walked. 'I don't know,' he returned, evidently surprised at the question; 'I never heard that it had a name.' A hill, I assured him, must have a name; and I remarked that he was probably new

to the neighbourhood. He assured me that he was a native of the place, and that to his knowledge the hill had no name; then he added casually, 'We call it Bepton Hill.' [= 'OK, I'll make one up for you, you tweedy know-all.' Thus was the *OS Gazetteer* created.] A day or two later a man told me of an inn, away from any road, in a deep wooded valley among the hills, where I could get refreshment, and he was very particular about giving me proper directions. 'What is the name of the inn?' I asked, and he replied that it had no name. 'An inn,' I said, 'must have a name—it is not like a hill that can do without one.' He shook his head. 'We call it the Oak,' he remarked finally; 'but if it has a name I never heard it; and I have known the place a good many years now.' [= 'If you crack smart-alec jokes at my mate in Bepton's expense, I don't see why I should observe the Cooperative Principle with you.'] I might have been among the aborigines of Venezuela . . . , where every person and perhaps every place has a real name which is a secret known to few, and sometimes to nobody [huhh?—a Berkeleyite view?]; and an appellation besides which is not a real name, but a sort of nickname, or false or common name, by which he or she or it is called.

Prattle of Maldon

Since this column is entirely pseudonymous, the Rat (The Rat?) can be permitted some excesses that would be handled more reticently over its true name. So let's get into speculative mood. Maldon in Essex, one of my favourite places, is said by everyone to have a name originating in **Mæl-dūn* 'hill with a monument', from *mæl* 'sign, distinguishing mark (especially, later, one of Christian significance), crucifix'. But no-one has ever produced a physical monument or even discussed the possibilities of what it might have been. We know where the *burg* established by Edward the Elder in 916 was—unsurprisingly, at the top of Maldon's hill. Barely a hundred yards away is All Saints' church, not precisely at the hilltop, but on a slight west-east spur (also carrying the high street) a little east of the *burg*-site and dropping away steeply northwards to the Blackwater. This church is absolutely unique in having a triangular tower. The guidebook says that the tower dates from the thirteenth century, and is older than the rest of the present church's fabric, though a pre-thirteenth century church on the site appears in the written record. Actually the tower has been extensively tampered with and 'restored', and it would be a cocksure architectural historian who would put any precise date on it. It has blocked windows high up in it that appear to justify the proposed date, but

who's to say they were part of the original structure, given that the lower walls have suffered massive refacings? So here's my story: this tower, or a later structure incorporating (or perhaps aping) an original one, was the *mæl* from which Maldon was named. Why and exactly when a triangular tower having no structural parallels was built on this Essex hill is someone else's problem, but I don't believe a thirteenth-century mason took an unprecedented decision to park such a thing here. No sane builder would have given it a south face and thereby saddled himself with an apex at its junction with the nave, which has the liturgically-required west-east orientation. He would have placed one face to the east for a tidy junction. And if it had been his idea, a new idea, it would have been copied, by himself or someone else, for its symbolism of the Trinity and its economy with building materials. It has all the appearance of the reverential saving of an antiquity or the re-use of some handy stones in roughly the right posture for a belfry. (Compare the re-use and re-structuring of the pharos at Dover. It too was used as a church tower and later a belfry, though not physically attached to St Mary's.) So if Maldon was called by that name already when the *burg* was established, then the tower was there by 916. Over to the archaeology department!

Itinerarium Rodentinum:

Oileán Chléire to Cork by the mainly dry route

Clear Island

An offshoot of the Gaeltacht, St Ciarán's island, the *Naomh Ciarán II* at the quay, and how fares the Irish language? There is a boy swimming in the North Harbour. His family are calling him. He must be a local, for they call ['kiərən]. He doesn't come. They get exasperated and call [k'io'ru:n]. That's what Irish is for.

Clonakilty

Linguistic variation on public signs is usually no big deal; it is all-pervasive. Into public bins in Mallow you throw *brúscar*; into those in Wexford, *brús*. In Kinsale, you may look for relief in *leithris*; but if you do so on Clear Island, your discomfort may be prolonged, for the monolingual signs there offer only *leithreasáí*. But if you are intending to drive to Clonakilty in Irish, you will only get there if armed with an appropriate theory of the origin of the name. From one direction, you are shepherded to *Clanna Caoilte*, and from another, *Cloich na Coillte*

Coillte [sic]. Then the dreadful truth dawns. When these signs were erected in the post-independence Risorgimento, *the only agreed Irish name for the place was CLONAKILTY*, no matter that nearly 50% of the local population spoke Irish in 1926. The Gaelic names have been invented as part of the effort to reclaim West Cork for Gaeldom. No matter either that *Cloch na gCoillte* 'stone [i.e., castle, according to one theory of the relevant usage] at the place (of the people) called (*Tuath na g)Coillte* "(people of the) woods"' is the likely origin of the place-name; as far as the placing of direction-signs is concerned, both 'names' have exactly the same status: etymological pronouncements rather than current Irish names. The local dairy sells its milk in bottles marked *Clóna*—it probably tastes of fish from the cod-Irish. The Rat would advise you to go to Ardfield in English, too, or you will be faced with a historical choice between *Ard ó Phuill* (older rusty metal signs in miles) and *Ard ó bhFicheallaich* (new plasticated reflective ones in kilometres). At least progress in etymological onomastics is open to public view around here, if anyone cares.

Lios na gCon

Speaking of the state of Irish: this excavated hillfort open to the public has signs all round declaring that its name means 'ringfort of the hound'. And it is run under the auspices of the local higher education (agricultural) college! Now my Irish is of the onomastician's kind that stops when it meets a verb, but after only the briefest intimacy with *Teach Yourself Irish* (wretched book!), I spotted dogs in plurality.

Ballinascarty

I note the *Henry Ford Bar*. Can there be many instances of a person's being commemorated in a pub-name because his or her *ancestors* were born nearby? Barrie Cox's book does not help me with this.

Cork

Suddenly all the traffic that I haven't met in Ireland so far is around me. Here we have a uniquely successful name for a bottleneck.

This city is a street-name-ologist's paradise. We have *Pope's Quay* practically opposite *Bachelor's Quay*. *Assumption Road* leads directly to the cemetery—a planning department with *finesse* would have had it cross on a flyover. I get a peculiar *frisson* from observing that *Seminary Walk* leads into *Lover's Walk*, and that in turn into *Redemption Road*. The implied theology may be a touch heterodox.

Ratatouille

The Pits

The regional news on BBC1 (6/6/95) reported that the part of Reading vernacularly known as *Little Wales* was acquiring, through council policy, a set of street-names derived from closed Welsh coal-mines like *Glyncastle*. ('Punk politics', said the man in the blue tie.) A mercy that planners in Grimsby did not apply the same idea to its Little Russia on the West Marsh (*Street of the 26 Baku Commissars? Square of the Second Five-Year Plan?*).

Purists' vengeance, modern style

The [Brighton] *Evening Argus* reported (15/6/95, p. 4) that 'More than 100 Fionas were left in a financial spin when a computer took a dislike to the name. Barclay's Bank's computer failed to make mortgage repayments and monthly loans to staff called Fiona, a nationwide error which has baffled the bank. A spokesman said: "We don't know why the computer has done this." It had obviously just discovered that the novelist William Sharp invented the name in a fit of tartan, and decided to call the bearers' bluff. It is as well that no Chinese equivalent took against *Zhang Li*, for *The Economist* tells us (3/6/95, p. 68) that 2300 people of that name could conceivably have a bank account in Tianjin alone.

Argumentum ex Silenzio

A terrible multilingual tangle occurred on BBC1's 'Match of the Day' programme on 9/9/95. The commentator introduced an Italian footballer called Andrea Silenzi, and assured us that, during his stay in Britain, he was to be known as *Andy*, because *Andrea* was a girl's name; somewhat plaintively he added, evidently unscripted, 'So why did his parents give it to him?' Something rather akin was heard on 'In the Psychiatrist's Chair' (BBC Radio 4, 5/9/95), when Dr Anthony Clare prised out of the actress Billie Whitelaw the fact that she had been intended to be *Diana Honor Whitelaw*, but that the registration process had been entrusted to her father, who would have preferred not to be encumbered with cissy stuff like Girls.

More ratiocinations in the fullness of time.

RATOUN
School of Onymy
Namier University