

If the suggestion is correct that the suffix in the place-name *Talkarn Mackus* is derived from the known tenant of St Petrock's of that name, then this constitutes a valuable instance of a Cornish manorial suffix originating with a tenant who lived in the eleventh century. That is rather earlier than the currency of most personal names found as manorial suffixes in Cornwall, and is of particular interest since the bearer of the name is known from two separate sources, a rare circumstance for Cornwall in the eleventh century. If this man's name was of Hiberno-Scandinavian derivation, as Thornton's discussion makes probable, then he was a man, presumably of Hiberno-Scandinavian ancestry, who (or his forebears) had settled in Cornwall, perhaps under the patronage of St Petrock's monastery. (Compare Leland's comment, 500 years later, that the saint's town of Padstow was 'ful of Irisch men').¹⁵² He rose well up the social scale, becoming the holder of one or two manors and occupying an important position of social and fiscal responsibility—a useful demonstration of the possibility of flexibility and receptiveness towards overseas immigrants in Cornish society in the eleventh century.

¹⁵² *The Itinerary of John Leland in or about the Years 1535–1543*, edited by Lucy Toulmin Smith, 5 vols (London, 1906–10), I, 179.

Reviews

KENNETH CAMERON, *English Place Names*, new edition, Batsford: London, 1996, 256 pp. ISBN 0 7134 7378 9. Price £17.99 (paperback).

Kenneth Cameron's *English Place Names* requires no introduction to readers of *Nomina*. Long established as the leading book in its field, it has been essential reading for both students and specialists since publication of the first edition in 1961. A new edition has been needed for some years, for despite being, as Margaret Gelling has commented, 'unlikely to be replaced or surpassed', the text had undeniably become outdated.¹ The pace of change in place-name research has meant that many of the views held in the 1960s are no longer considered valid; and this new edition not only presents a reliable and authoritative account of the current position, but outlines some of the most important work in place-name studies over the last thirty years in order to show how this position has been arrived at. Unlike previous revisions, where addenda to individual chapters were printed towards the end of the volume, the book has now been extensively rewritten to incorporate the most up-to-date scholarly thinking within the main body of the text. Certain sections are, of course, affected more than others, and this review will focus on the major changes that have been made.

Of the twenty chapters contained in the previous edition, one—'Place-Names and Archaeology'—has now been omitted. It is replaced by a chapter on 'Modern Place-Names', which discusses names formed during the last two and a half centuries and is partly based on the work of Adrian Room. Otherwise, the overall layout of the book remains much the same. The opening chapter on 'The Technique of Place-Name Study' has some new material, notably on topographical vocabulary and on the debate concerning Anglo-Norman influence on spelling and phonology; and the treatment of these topics later in the book has also been revised. Thus the chapters on 'Rivers, River-Crossings, and Marshland', 'Hills and Valleys', and 'Woods, Clearings and Open Land' now draw heavily on recent work by Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole, as, to a lesser extent, does the chapter on 'Roads and Ways'. This allows much more precise definitions of individual terms to be given than was previously possible. Old English *ĕg*, *ford*, and *dun*, for instance, are now understood to have had a quasi-habitative significance (pp. 172, 175 and 181–82), while OE *hōb* has been shown to refer to a hill-spur of a particular shape (p. 184), OE **wæsse* to land that floods and drains quickly (p. 15), and OE *hop* to a valley characterised by a secluded location (p. 193).

¹ M. Gelling, *Signposts to the Past. Place-Names and the History of England*, 2nd edn (Chichester, 1988), p. 16.

This is an area where advances are rapidly being made, and it should be noted that the research by Ann Cole on *burna* and *brōc*, outlined on p. 166, has been overtaken by a still more recent study by Peter Kitson demonstrating that the distinction relates less to the physical features of the streams than to the dialectal distribution of the terms.²

A change of title in Chapter 7, from 'The Influence of French on English Place-Names' to 'English Place-Names of French Origin', reflects a change of emphasis within the text to take account of Cecily Clark's important theories concerning native sources of linguistic development. Clark does not, however, appear in the Bibliography, and indeed, Cameron's tendency, throughout the book, to use phrases such as 'it has been suggested' or 'recently it has been shown', makes it difficult to follow up individual references. In Chapter 10, 'Place-Names with Pagan Associations', for instance, he writes, 'Recently it has been suggested that the name of the god Thor is the first element of Thoresway (L)' (pp. 121-22), but does not acknowledge the source of the suggestion as his *The Place Names of Lincolnshire*, part III,³ nor mention that it was strongly rebutted in a subsequent article by Barrie Cox.⁴ This chapter too has been very substantially rewritten, incorporating new discoveries such as the charter spelling establishing the derivation of Friden in Derbyshire from the name of the goddess *Frig* (p. 118), and firmly rejecting the pagan interpretation of the 'animal-head' names endorsed in previous editions of the book: 'It would be surprising indeed if almost as many names survived commemorating a particular pagan custom as commemorating places of actual pagan worship' (p. 121). It is ironic that this statement appeared shortly after the publication of an article by Audrey Meaney which goes some way towards resolving the difficulty, suggesting that the names may refer to carved marker posts representing animals, the use of which may have continued into Christian times despite originating in pagan custom.⁵ Nevertheless, the weight of current scholarship is solidly in support of Cameron's position. Much of this chapter is based on Margaret Gelling's definitive studies on pagan place-names, and, again, it is slightly unfortunate that neither these nor the

² P. R. Kitson, 'The nature of Old English dialect distributions, mainly as exhibited in charter boundaries', in *Medieval Dialectology*, edited by J. Fisiak (Berlin, 1995), pp. 54-135 (pp. 91-92). I am very grateful to Ann Cole for herself pointing this out to me when I was working on the entry for *brōc* for the forthcoming new edition of Smith's *English Place-Name Elements*.

³ K. Cameron, with J. Field and J. Insley, *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*, III, English Place-Name Society, 66 (Nottingham, 1992), pp. 150-51.

⁴ B. Cox, 'The pattern of Old English *burh* in early Lindsey', *Anglo-Saxon England*, 23 (1994), 35-56 (p. 42, n. 20).

⁵ A. Meaney, 'Pagan English sanctuaries, place-names and hundred meeting-places', *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History*, 8 (1995), 29-42 (p. 30).

work on *bearg* and *wēoh* by David Wilson, outlined on p. 116, are traceable through the Bibliography.

Less revision has proved necessary for the corresponding chapter on 'Place-Names with Christian Associations', although some of the names discussed here should perhaps have been scrutinized more rigorously. Anslow in Staffordshire, for instance, does not derive from OE *ānsetl* 'hermitage', as stated on p. 129, but from a feminine personal name *Ēanswīth*, as is revealed by a thirteenth-century charter spelling *ansidelege*, to which Margaret Gelling kindly drew my attention when I was guilty of perpetuating the same error in a recent article.⁶ In the same chapter, Cameron's statement that no place-name is known where OE *hālig* must have a pagan connotation (p. 131) appears to overlook the compelling case made by Barrie Cox in his discussion of Holyoaks in the English Place-Name Survey for Rutland.⁷ Similarly in Chapter 12, 'Place-Names Illustrating Social and Legal Customs', it is disappointing to find the interpretation of Warnborough as 'stream where felons are drowned' (p. 139) repeated verbatim from the previous edition, despite an alternative suggestion put forward by the present reviewer in 1995,⁸ while the derivation of Wiveliscombe from an Old English personal name **Wifel*, given in Chapter 16, 'Hills and Valleys' (p. 192), can no longer be accepted in the light of Peter Kitson's findings.⁹

Probably the most extensive changes have affected the chapters on Celtic, early English, and Scandinavian place-names, to reflect important new research in recent years. Chapter 3, 'Celtic Place-Names and River-Names', is now the longest in the book, presenting a superb state-of-the-art account, with valuable summaries of work by Oliver Padel, Margaret Gelling, Richard Coates and Cameron himself.¹⁰ Of similar quality is Chapter 5, 'Early English Settlement-Names', a highly lucid and judicious exposition of the revised settlement chronology. Here some thirty years of scholarly debate are brilliantly condensed within six pages of text, followed by lists of examples of place-names from *-ingas* and *-ingahām*. (Names derived from *hām* appear in Chapter 13, 'English Settlement-Names', together with those from *tun*, *wic*

⁶ C. Hough, 'The place-name Annesley', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 28 (1996), 45-49 (p. 46).

⁷ B. Cox, *The Place-Names of Rutland*, EPNS 67-69 (Nottingham, 1994), pp. lii and 298-99.

⁸ C. Hough, 'OE *wearg* in Warnborough and Wreighburn', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 27 (1995), 14-20.

⁹ P. Kitson, 'Quantifying qualifiers in Anglo-Saxon charter boundaries', *Folia Linguistica Historica*, 14 (1993), 29-82 (pp. 75-77).

¹⁰ The derivation of Croydon from OE *croh* 'saffron' on pp. 43-44 may, however, require revision in the light of C. P. Biggam, 'Saffron in Anglo-Saxon England', *Dyes in History and Archaeology*, 14 (1995), 19-32.

and *word*.) Chapter 6, 'Scandinavian Place-Names', has also been rewritten to give an account of the latest thinking—itsself largely the result of Cameron's own innovative research—exemplified by a county-by-county analysis of place-names from *bý*, *þorp*, *toft* and hybrid *tūn*. Taken together, these three chapters comprise the most up-to-date and intelligible survey currently available of the place-name evidence for settlement-patterns and language-contact during the Anglo-Saxon period. They can be recommended in the very highest terms.

The amount of information contained within the book is phenomenal. Some four thousand place-names appear in the index, even though the street-names and field-names discussed in the last two chapters are, regrettably, no longer included. Also omitted from this edition are the appendix of common place-name elements, and the photographs which formerly illustrated manuscript sources and early maps. Both will be missed. Their exclusion is presumably for reasons of cost, although the price has nonetheless rocketed to a figure that will place the book beyond the reach of many potential readers. Corners have also been cut on proof-reading, so that the text is marred by a number of typographical errors. Most are transparent, but some may prove misleading, as with the guide to pronunciation on p. 10, where Modern English *bat* appears as the exemplar for long *ā* as well as short *æ* in Old English, and the feminine personal names on p. 153, where 'Sgifu' appears for 'Sægifu', and 'Wulfuryð' for 'Wulfþryð' within a single line.

As before, one of the book's greatest strengths lies in its sheer clarity of style. Drawing on his unrivalled expertise as former Honorary Director of the English Place-Name Survey, Cameron makes available the latest findings of toponymic research in language readily accessible to a non-specialist, and in so doing, continues to raise the profile of place-name studies as an academic discipline. The concise, readable format should attract a wide audience, and will ensure that *English Place Names* retains its deserved place in the popular as well as the scholarly market for many years to come. A new edition of this book was long overdue. It was worth waiting for.

CAROLE HOUGH

Namenforschung / Name Studies / Les Noms propres. An International Handbook of Onomastics, edited by ERNST EICHLER, GEROLD HILTY, HEINRICH LÖFFLER, HUGO STEGER AND LADISLAV ZGUSTA. Handbooks of Linguistics and Communications Science (HSK), 11. 2 vols + Index. Walter de Gruyter: Berlin and New York, 1995–96. xlvii + 2259 pp. [No price stated]

This is the age of encyclopedias and other co-operative ventures. Modern technology and ease of communication have made it possible to 'assemble' groups of expert contributors from all over the globe to produce general or specialised compilations on any subject imaginable. The field of name studies has not escaped this trend, as the volumes under review illustrate. The *International Handbook of Onomastics* forms Volume 11 of a wider series of Handbooks of Linguistics and Communications Science, which, among others, includes handbooks on such topics as *Contact Linguistics*, *Semiotics*, *Morphology*, *Languages for Special Purposes*, and *Writing and Its Use*. Within the whole series, each volume leads, however, an independent existence, and the 2259 pages of Volume 11, divided into two volumes of text and an index volume, are no exception. Even when evaluated separately from the gigantic overall project, they represent an impressive achievement, providing the onomastic sciences, on an international level, with both a focus and a study aid which they have never had before. This *Handbook*, which, by the way, is more easily used *at hand* than *in hand*, contains 289 individual articles by a large number of authors of international reputation, writing in German, English or French. That there is a preponderance of contributions in German (60%) is undoubtedly due to the fact that the original stimulus for the project came from, and most of its editors live in, German-speaking countries; as a third of the articles is in English, however, there is still plenty of accessible substance in this compendium for the monoglot English speaker, including contributions by scholars closely associated with the society which publishes this journal, such as David Dorward, 'Scottish Personal Names' (pp. 1284–89), Ian Fraser, 'Name Studies in the United Kingdom' (pp. 23–27), Margaret Gelling, 'Place-Names in England' (pp. 786–92), Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig, 'Name Studies in Ireland' (pp. 27–31), Bill Nicolaisen, 'Name and Appellative' (pp. 384–93), 'Names in English Literature' (pp. 560–68), 'Scottish Place Names' (pp. 1409–13), and Veronica Smart, 'Personal Names in England' (pp. 782–86).

Of these eight articles, only seven are directly concerned with the British Isles, and although Ireland and Wales are referred to with regard to the study of their names and some relevant publications, the nature of their nomenclatures, both toponymically and anthroponymically, is not described and analysed anywhere. This is not necessarily the editors' fault, but

demonstrates how the 'ideal' of seamless coverage is as elusive in an undertaking of this magnitude as in more limited surveys. Almost by definition, an international handbook, in spite of the best will in the world, cannot be comprehensive, and it is significant, as well as honest, that the epithet 'complete' is missing from the title. The selection of items is bound to have been influenced, both by the editors' personal preferences, and by the availability of name scholars to contribute articles. There may be gaps in the coverage, and discontinuity in the treatment of the subject matter, but these are more easily borne than third- or fourth-hand accounts cobbled together by people not directly concerned with the topic in hand. The general impression of this compendium is, therefore, one of solid, refreshing, hands-on articles.

The criteria chosen by the editors for the structuring of the contents reflect cautious conservatism rather than audacity, as the English titles of the twenty major sub-divisions show:

- I. Name Studies: Overview, History, Directions, Institutions
- II. Research Methods in Name Studies
- III. Elements of a General Theory of Names
- IV. The Grammar of Names
- V. The Semantics of Names
- VI. The Pragmatics of Names
- VII. The Stylistics of Names
- VIII. Historical Development of Names
- IX. Names in Language Contact
- X. Geography of Names
- XI. Personal Names I: Single Names and Given Names
- XII. Personal Names II: Family Names (Surnames)
- XIII. Personal Names III: Other Matters
- XIV. Names of Countries and Peoples
- XV. Place Names I: Names of Inhabited Places
- XVI. Place Names II: Microtoponyms, Hodonyms, etc.
- XVII. Hydronyms
- XVIII. Names of Things, Animals and Institutions
- XIX. Transitional Cases Between Proper Names and Generic Names
- XX. Names and History.

While it would be difficult, as well as niggling, to fault the grand design of this structure, which, after all, has to satisfy approaches to names and naming all over the globe, sometimes the terminology borrowed from linguistics, like grammar, semantics (inclusive of both lexical meaning and onomastic content), pragmatics (instead of function), and stylistics (including mainly literary onomastics) seems to be less than felicitous, insofar as it does not pay

sufficient attention to the special characteristics of names. On the other hand, socio-onomastics, which has benefited from the transfer of such concepts as 'register' from sociolinguistics, appears to have fallen through the meshes of the net. Though it is perhaps understandable that good old English terms like street names and river names have had to make way for Greek-based terms like hodonyms and hydronyms, with their greater precision and range of meaning, it is to be regretted that the term 'field names' has been completely replaced by microtoponyms, which is more encompassing. More problematic in its impact is the English translation of the German 'Eigennamen und Gattungsnamen' as 'Proper Names and Generic Names' in the heading of Section XIX. Quite apart from the fact that it is not necessary to qualify the word 'name' with the adjective 'proper', 'generic names' presumably stands for 'common nouns', muddling an already muddled situation even further. This comment is not intended to be a mere quibbling about terms, but is meant to point up the conceptual consequences of a multi-lingual terminological accommodation of the need to reach many different audiences. It is not without significance that the Greek-based terminology is usually found in the non-English, mostly German, articles, and not in the English ones. The answer may well be that English-speaking name scholars should be more prepared to use this kind of international terminology in their professional writings, because, at present, there is still a noticeable discrepancy in terminological usage. Teodolius Witkowski, in his (German) article on 'Problems of Terminology' (pp. 288-94) discusses this general issue in some detail.

As is to be expected, not all the twenty categories are given equal weight. Some of the most substantial are Nos I, with thirty-nine articles, many of which are surveys of name research in particular countries; VIII, with sixty-two articles (the most far-ranging of all the sections, covering a large part of the globe, from ancient Hittite and Vietnamese names to Eskimo names); and the combined sections XI, XII, and XIII, with twenty-six articles on personal names. Curiously, there are only four contributions to the section devoted to 'The Semantics of Names', although the thorny question of name-meaning and name-content goes to the heart of the concept of what constitutes a name, and of how it differs from non-names: Andreas Lötscher writes on 'The Name as Lexical Unit: Denotation and Connotation' (pp. 448-57); Gerhard Koss addresses himself to 'The Meaning of Proper Names: Word Meaning and Name Meaning' (pp. 458-63); Peter Wiesinger's contribution on the same main topic has the sub-title 'Folk Etymologies' (pp. 463-71); and Leonard Ashley deals more specifically with 'Folk Etymology in the Place Names of the United States' (pp. 471-75). Although the paucity of articles in this section is somewhat disappointing, the four contributors prove that the subject can be covered quite adequately in a few

well-focused accounts. What is much more distressing, however, is the lack of cross-language references, especially if that means that experts writing in one language are, to a large degree, unfamiliar with what is happening in name-studies outside their language area. In that respect, the *Handbook* demonstrates the fragmentation of our field of study, which is bound to make true internationality difficult to achieve.

Not the least valuable feature of this compendium is its separate Index Volume, which, in almost 360 pages, provides an index of topics, an index of authors quoted, two indices of morphemes (one alphabetical, the other organised by languages), an index of names, and (pandering to the classically-minded) a separate index of Greek names. While all of these are helpful in opening up the treasure-house of this handbook, the morphemic double-index is probably the most appetising and intriguing for those who have an interest in the structure of names, and in comparing their substance from culture to culture.

It is difficult to know whether one should regard the *Handbook* as an introduction to onomastics, an explorative guide to this multi-faceted, cross-disciplinary area of study, a shop-window display of some of the riches it has to offer, or a confirmation of what students of names have already known for quite a while. It is likely to be a bit of all of these, and then more, and it is a little miracle that this well-orchestrated celebration of the ubiquitous phenomenon 'name' has come to fruition at all. It is certainly difficult to imagine that the *Handbook* will be imitated or even replaced for some time to come, although, like even the best encyclopedic publications, it was probably both up-to-date and out-of-date on the day it was published. Teams of expert contributors, like those who created the *Handbook*, are not easily assembled every day. All of us who have an interest in what the editors call 'the universe of names' should persuade our institutional and public libraries to acquire it.

W. F. H. NICOLAISEN

JOHN INSLEY, *Scandinavian Personal Names in Norfolk. A Survey Based on Medieval Records and Place-Names*. Acta Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi, 62. Uppsala, 1994. (Distributed by Almqvist & Wiksell International, Stockholm.) ISBN 91-85352-26-8. 455 pp. Price 289 Swedish kronor.

This book originated as a doctoral thesis submitted to the University of Nottingham in 1980. In contrast to some parts of the Continent, there is no obligation to publish doctoral dissertations in the United Kingdom, and even now, despite improved information technologies which make publication easier, it is still by no means usual there. As a result of this, Insley's thesis

might well have remained unpublished and known only to a few specialists in the field, had not the Royal Swedish Gustavus Adolphus Academy been approached with a view to its publication in the early nineties. This learned society immediately realized the value of the work, and it was accepted in its series of Acta publications. There was also substantial financial support from the Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

When asked by the editor if I was willing to review it for *Nomina*, I hesitated, since I had been instrumental in bringing it into print. However, on thinking it over, I decided to comply. There might be cause for a few comments by a Scandinavian who welcomes the publication of this large corpus of Old Scandinavian personal names, which would otherwise have been buried in a single typescript copy in Nottingham University Library. The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy and the Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences are both to be congratulated as sponsors. This book will be used as a work of reference for many years to come. I have already had occasion to refer to it several times in articles on English-Scandinavian language contact.

The book is arranged as a dictionary in which the personal names are treated in alphabetical order. Every entry starts with a list (a) of Norfolk place-names and field-names containing the personal name in question. Under (b) the author lists the personal-name forms evidenced independently in Norfolk records from the tenth to the second half of the thirteenth century. For each name, the etymology is discussed in meticulous detail. As far as possible, the author tries to localize the persons listed under (b). He mentions, not only where he or she held land or was involved in pleas or fines, but also when he or she has ancestors and relatives with Scandinavian names. I know of no other work on a similar scale in anthroponymy where an individual author has taken such pains to extract information from the sources. Here is a mine of data for local historians. The assessments of relevant research published in English, German and Scandinavian languages, which often accompany the individual items, are useful, and a comprehensive bibliography of twenty pages is an invaluable instrument to scholars. Additional material excerpted from a few sources available to the author after 1980, in a nine-page appendix, makes the survey as complete as we can ask, but adds nothing of great importance to an already comprehensive piece of work.

The sheer antiquity of the Scandinavian names presented is, of course, one of the fascinations of the book to a Swedish reader, for many of the names, although well-known to a Swede, are often not evidenced in Swedish records until much later. So we find examples of typically medieval-Swedish personal names, such as *Kolsten* and *Þegn*, as well as typically Danish names like *Bondi* and *Toki*, and West Scandinavian formations like *Steingrímur*. A good example of an exact parallel to Scandinavian nomenclature is provided

by the Norfolk place-name Tyby, recorded as early as 1086 in Domesday Book, which contains Old Danish **Tithi*, Old Swedish **Tidhe*, and is formally and etymologically identical with the Swedish place-name Tiby (recorded as *Tidhæby* 1309).

But Insley's large corpus is important in a wider perspective. East Anglia has been submerged by many linguistic invasions. The Anglo-Saxon heritage in Middle English personal names was explored by Seltén (1972, 1979).¹¹ East Anglia was an important part of the Danelaw, although only for a short time in the tenth century, and there has been great uncertainty about the extent of the Scandinavian impact, since our conclusions have had to be based on the major place-names in the absence of surveys by the English Place-Name Society. For more information, special studies are necessary, and Insley has given us a survey of the Scandinavian personal names in Norfolk in painstaking detail. He began his great work in 1971, when he moved from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to study under Professor Kenneth Cameron at Nottingham. That it took him more than eight years to complete this enterprise is not surprising, in view of its scope and the precision and care with which it has been undertaken. The county's Middle English personal names of French origin remain, so far, unexplored.

It is difficult to imagine a similar type of study being undertaken as a doctoral thesis today in Sweden, where bureaucratic restrictions of an economic nature were imposed on the scope of doctoral theses in the seventies. A notable brave exception which comes to mind is Ingrid Hjertstedt's thorough and very impressive work, *Nicknames in the Lay Subsidy Rolls of Warwickshire*, based on material which she had collected summer after summer in English archives, still a slender volume (247 pp.) by comparison with Insley's.¹² We have reason to be grateful that Insley did not try to shorten his book by reducing the lists of early spellings for the numerous place- and personal names. Long as they are, they will be useful, not only for future local historians and other scholars interested in regional patterns of name-giving, but also for students of early Middle English dialect boundaries and the local distribution of various linguistic features. It will be a long time before the ongoing survey of the place-names of Norfolk, which will include as many as possible of the of the old field-names, has been completed. In the meantime, we at least have Insley's work, which covers the whole county.

At a symposium on 'The Vikings' to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Uppsala University in 1977, Angus McIntosh advocated a joint Scandinavian

¹¹ B. Seltén, *The Anglo-Saxon Heritage in Middle English Personal Names*, I, Lund Studies in English, 43 (Lund, 1972), and II, Acta Regiae Societatis Humaniorum Litterarum Lundensis, 73 (Lund, 1979).

¹² I. Hjertstedt, *Middle English Nicknames in the Lay Subsidy Rolls for Warwickshire*, Studia Anglistica Upsaliensia, 63 (Uppsala, 1987).

project in Middle English word geography, for the study of the long-term impact of Scandinavian upon English. He said, 'It is safe to say that the least thoroughly explored of all matters which such an undertaking would embrace has to do with the geographical range of use of individual words of Scandinavian origin'.¹³ He made clear that he also wanted to see onomastic material included in such a project, and he emphasized that the answers to the questions we are asking 'lie buried in the enormous mass of still extant but unpublished Middle English manuscripts'. McIntosh was himself aware of the vast scope of the project he was suggesting, for he advised scholars, in the meantime, to embark upon some 'much more modest' approach. With reservation for the use of the word 'modest', it is, in fact, in this spirit that Insley has undertaken his research. The unprinted local manorial sources from which Insley has collected his material are among the best that remain to be explored, if we are to increase our knowledge about the varying degree of Scandinavianization in the different parts of the Danelaw.

KARL INGE SANDRED

MATS WAHLBERG, *Uppsalas Gatunamn. Sveriges ortnamn: Ortnamnen i Uppsala län 5:1. Ortnamnsarkivet i Uppsala*. Uppsala 1995. 381 pp. No price stated.

K. FRASER and R. N. SMART, *St Andrews Street-Names*. St Andrews University Library Publications. St Andrews, 1995. 64 pp. £6.95p.

Street-names are a natural extension of place-name studies, though a somewhat different subject, since old, spontaneously-arising designations are greatly outnumbered by the products of deliberate choice, whether individual or corporate. Where a sensitive attention to local history and association is maintained by the namers, the names of old settlements which have otherwise disappeared may be preserved, but the decisions of builders and town-councils are a record of a different kind of social history.

Two books published within weeks of each other give an insight into contrasts reflected in the street-names of two communities which set out with a great deal in common, but which have latterly diverged. Neither Uppsala nor St Andrews became the capital of its country, though they were famous cult sites when Edinburgh and Stockholm were insignificant; the origins of both are surrounded by myth and conjecture, but each became an

¹³ Angus McIntosh, 'Middle English Word-Geography: its Potential Role in the Study of the Long-Term Impact of the Scandinavian Settlements upon English', in *The Vikings*, edited by T. Andersson and K. I. Sandred, Symposia Universitatis Upsaliensis Annum Quingentesimum Celebrantis, 8 (Uppsala, 1978), pp. 124-30.

ecclesiastical metropolis and the seat of an ancient university. Yet whilst so similar in the Middle Ages and, indeed, up to the beginning of the nineteenth century, Greater Uppsala now has a population of about 178,000, and has swallowed many surrounding villages, whilst St Andrews remains a modest country town of some 25,000, in spite of considerable post-war development, which has spread only over its own agricultural hinterland, and local government changes in 1975 removed its old burghal autonomy.

The earliest main street-names in the centre of both towns were, no doubt, descriptions before they became names, indicating position or direction (Södragatan, Southgate), whilst minor ways carried the designation of ownership or tenancy (Erik Benedicti gränd, Magnus Hakenssons gata, Muttoes Lane, Apotekargränden, Baxter Wynd). In Uppsala, an early regulation of street-names took place in 1643, when a radical re-planning of the town removed not only the names, but the orientation of the streets themselves, and a committee of two academics and seven municipal functionaries re-named the ways and quarters of the city. This control did not persist in a steady line, but new streets came generally under the guidance of the city architect, and the control was strengthened in the nineteenth century, until, in 1923, the naming became the responsibility of a street-names committee of the local council. Similarly, in St Andrews, streets changed their names in both form and matter, until various nineteenth-century Acts of Parliament put power into the hands of local Police Commissioners to choose street-names, or sanction the notions of speculative builders.

Unlike major settlement names, street-names were in a constant state of change in response to social forces. In St Andrews, modernisation went hand in hand with anglicisation: the old *gates* became *streets*, Baxter Wynd became Baker Lane. Uppsala had its own occasional drive towards refinement, a Lord Lieutenant preferring 'St Erik's' to 'Ox Square'. Growth in population meant that, in Uppsala, organic change could no longer keep pace with demand. When outlying communities became integrated, common names like Skogsgatan 'wood street' and Gammalvägen 'old road' were duplicated within the unit, and had to be re-named to avoid confusion. Then the sheer quantity of new names required gave rise to category groupings—what the St Andrews authors refer to as the Acacia Avenue type—usually with little local reference. In Uppsala not only trees and flowers are invoked, but fruit, birds, authors and scholars, minerals ('Feldspar', 'Soapstone', and 'Gneiss' Roads), and mythological characters, both classical and Nordic. In St Andrews, the smaller demand has meant that, even in the latest schemes, it has been possible to keep to local associations, the names of local worthies, provosts and baillies, churchmen, savants, landowners and builders supplementing local landmarks and vanished field- and farm-names.

The lavish format of the Uppsala book, as well as the higher academic input into the selection of the names themselves, reflects the greater value given to name studies in Scandinavia. The volume is part of one of the extensive series published for Ortnamnsarkivet i Uppsala, the Swedish Place-Name Survey, printed on glossy paper and plentifully illustrated with successive town plans, as well as old photographs and engravings of places and eponymous characters and features. In the St Andrews book, too, the appeal to the general curious reader is enhanced by reproductions of old photographs of the town, and useful maps, though on a more modest scale. Both present the names in a dictionary form, for Uppsala district by district. Together the volumes display a branch of study worthy of serious academic attention, as well as fascinating curiosities of Swedish and Scottish street-naming.

VERONICA SMART

DAVID DORWARD, *Scottish Surnames*. Collins Pocket Reference. Harper Collins: Glasgow, 1995. xviii + 365 pp. ISBN 0 00 470463 0. Price £4.99.

George F. Black's monumental *The Surnames of Scotland*, reprinted several times since its original publication in 1946, has, in the last fifty years, dominated the study of Scottish surnames to such an extent as to have apparently made any new dictionary on the same subject superfluous or unnecessary. Whether it can be regarded as 'definitive' in every aspect of the topic is another question, although users of the compendium cannot but look upon it with gratitude and awe. Only a completely new and systematic survey of Scotland's personal names can be expected to replace it on our library shelves, and that is not likely to happen in the near future, in spite of the closely-related keen interest in the study of genealogy, and the much-advanced technology now available for such a project.

The only major drawbacks of Black's volume, at well over 800 pages, are its lack of portability and the wealth of material it incorporates under each entry, making it unsuitable for finding a quick reference or etymology. A concise 'Black' is long overdue, although Scottish surnames have, of course, been included in a number of dictionaries covering the whole of Britain. In the absence of such a handy publication, David Dorward produced, in 1978, a useful but limited collection of about 100 of the most prominent surnames in the country, as a kind of introductory guide to the subject. It is greatly to be welcomed that he has now considerably increased his coverage in the felicitous format of a Collins Pocket Reference book, extending the number of names included to over 1,000, within an alphabetical framework from Abbott to Yule. Each name is presented with a brief narrative attached, which makes reference to early records of bearers of the name, its meaning,

geographical distribution and historical development in Scotland, as well as, where necessary, its pronunciation. Naturally, much of the relevant information is derived from Black, but Dorward is by no means a slavish imitator, and there are some refreshing new insights, as one would expect after half a century. The individual vignettes are a pleasure to read, persuading stylistically and convincing through their authenticity, which tends to err on the side of caution rather than speculation.

It is good to see that the large number of Scottish patronymics beginning with *Mac-* have been assigned a separate section of thirty-eight pages, with cross-references to and from the great variety of modern spellings and to non-*Mac-* names, providing uninitiated and unwary readers with a means of finding their way through the daunting maze (for example, from MacAleer to MacLure, MacAllister to Alexander, MacAndrew to Gillanders and Anderson, Gilzean to MacLean, MacCance to MacInnes, MacComb, etc., to MacTavish, or MacCracken to MacNaughton). Occasionally one wonders why such guidance is not given, as when there is no connection made from Pittillo, etc., to Pattullo, or when Pendreigh is chosen as the main entry for the Pittendreich family of names, but in general both its reliability and the way in which reliable information is dispensed are very impressive.

In addition to the obvious worth of the Dictionary itself, the 'Introduction' forms a valuable part of the book, with its brief summaries of such topics as the Scottish system of personal names, the principal types of Scottish surnames, the *Mac-* names, many of which have been lost, immigrant names, and pronunciation. It also includes some interesting statistics concerning the linguistic origins of Scottish surnames. The percentages are roughly: Old English (including Scots) 35%, Scottish Gaelic 21%, Irish Gaelic 11%, Norman-French 7%, Norse 4%, other (mainly Classical and Biblical) 14%. These figures do, of course, not give any hint as to the number of bearers of each name or name category. Unless one is a specialist in a particular surname or family connection, this is a valuable book that can be consulted with confidence and enjoyment. My own copy will stay right here beside me, within easy reach.

W. F. H. NICOLAISEN

ALAN RAYBURN, *Naming Canada: Stories about Place Names from Canadian Geographic*. University of Toronto Press: Toronto, 1994. xiv + 271 pp. ISBN 0 8020 6990 8. Price \$Can. 16.95 (paperback).

Alan Rayburn undoubtedly knows more about Canadian place-names than anybody else, inside or outside Canada. As Executive Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names from 1973 to 1987, he was actively involved, not only in interpreting the place-names of Canada,

but also in making individual decisions and general policy about the toponymic component in the cartographic development of the modern Canadian map. Since 1983, he has written an authoritative and well-received column on the subject of his special expertise for the *Canadian Geographic* magazine; the first sixty-one of these contributions have now been made available, in somewhat revised form, in one volume, by the University of Toronto Press.

As is to be expected of a collection of separate articles, there is no continuing narrative in this volume, but the brief essays have been grouped together under eight broad themes (further elaborated in the Introduction): (1) Looking at Canada's Places from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and to the Arctic; (2) Scrutinizing Political Issues and Language Problems; (3) Receiving Names from Overseas and Exporting Names Abroad; (4) Revealing Special Characteristics of Place Names and Generic Terms; (5) Adopting Names of Native Origin and Acknowledging Names Used by Indigenous People; (6) Observing Selected Names in Particular Regions; and (7) Commemorating Prominent Individuals and Honouring Certain Family Names. In spite of these thematic sub-divisions, however, one does not get the impression of fragmentation, but rather finds the kind of cohesion which is predictable when heterogeneous material receives the stamp of homogeneity after being filtered through an individual, expert mind. In addition, the author's insistence on the essential Canadian-ness of the names he discusses ('What could be more Canadian than Saskatoon?'), he exclaims at one point) reinforces the feeling of a unifying shaping force, despite the multiplicity of sources and motivations in the process of naming Canada.

What strikes the European, and particularly the British, reader of the book is the unashamed youthfulness of many ingredients in the Canadian place-name inventory, even in those instances in which the names themselves, whether native or imported, are of some antiquity. After all, it is their present usage and content that matters and makes them peculiarly Canadian. In so many cases, the circumstances of the naming process, including the identity of the namer, can still be ascertained with a little shrewd detective work, and Canada, perhaps even more than the USA, therefore turns out to be an excellent laboratory for the place-name researcher.

It would be impossible to respond adequately to the richness of the evidence provided by Rayburn. As a poor substitute, here are some eclectic comments on points and information which have struck this reviewer as worthy of commentary.

(a) The fascinating ordinariness (this is not an oxymoron!) of so many of the native names, whether they are descriptive of the terrain, like Antigonish (Nova Scotia) 'flowing through broken marsh', or refer to people in such areas, like Kitwanga (British Columbia) 'people of the place of many rabbits'.

The author demolishes elegantly the more romantic notion that the former means 'where the bears tear branches off trees', i.e., the kind of quaint phrase-translation that has become stereotypically attached to many native names on the North American continent. While there are undoubtedly incident and event names which collapse time and space, thus producing an essential congruency of history and geography, there are also many designations in which tribal history is not recorded in such liturgical fashion.

(b) The receptiveness towards names from abroad, which become Canadian almost naïvely by being placed on the map of Canada, designating a Canadian location. All parts of the world from where Canadians have come are toponymically represented. Most of us probably primarily think of Europe in that respect, but the Middle East, for example, has, sometimes through Biblical influence, supplied many names like Bagdad [*sic!*], Nineveh, Eden, Egypt, Lebanon, Cairo, Damascus, Goshen, Canaan, Salem, Bethany, and so on. London (Ontario), is quite rightly on the River Thames, but Warsaw, in the same province, has been imported from New York State, to which it had earlier been transferred from Poland. An impressive warning against not jumping to conclusions is provided by the name Paris (Ontario), which was named in 1829, after a local gypsum deposit from which plaster of Paris was made. For anybody familiar with the North American scene, the ability to attract and absorb names from abroad will not come as a surprise, but it is a little unexpected to be told that Canadian place-names, too, have been exported, Australia and New Zealand being among the recipient countries.

(c) This reviewer is not in a position to say whether North America is the part of the world in which the phenomenon of intra-onomastic transfers from one name-category to another first took place, but the ease with which personal names, especially surnames, were applied to places never ceases to amaze. The surname most commonly found in Canadian place-names is, not unexpectedly, *Smith* (439 instances), but the most frequently-applied individual name is *Victoria* (over 300 instances); both these figures include names in which the surname functions as a specific, but *Victoria* on its own is, of course, also the name of the capitals of British Columbia and Saskatchewan, and Regina (Saskatchewan), belongs here, too. The most frequently commemorated Canadian is Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister from 1876 to 1911. Intra-onomastic transfer is particularly noticeable when a surname becomes a river-name, like Fraser and Mackenzie, which function just like Hudson in New York, and allow one to talk about the Fraser and the Mackenzie as if one were talking about the Thames, the Rhine or the Danube. As a coda, it is worth noting that Kitchener (Ontario) was *Berlin* before 1916, when this became unacceptable because of the anti-German sentiment during World War I.

(d) Lastly, on one of the byways of cultural history, it is both instructive and amusing to discover that Rudyard Kipling used his influence to help retain one of Canada's most famous place-names, Medicine Hat (Alberta), the origin of which has so far been explained only in several divergent storied accounts.

As the arrangement of the essays implies, the plethora of names used to illustrate Canada's toponymic kaleidoscope makes an appearance according to thematic principles, but fortunately a 38-page Index acts as a helpful guide in the search for information about particular names. This is, of course, no substitute for a Dictionary of Canadian Place-Names, but it offers an opportunity to explore the evidence in ways additional to those devised by the author.

W. F. H. NICOLAISEN

MARGOT FORD McMILLEN, *Paris, Tightwad, and Peculiar: Missouri Place Names*. University of Missouri Press: Columbia and London, 1994. xii + 93 pp. ISBN 0 8262 0972 6. Price \$7.95.

The book under review, which is one in a series of Missouri Heritage Readers, is, like the other books in the series, 'intended for adult new readers', as well as 'readers of all ages interested in the cultural and social history of Missouri'. The choice of title obviously reflects this primary purpose, although it would be condescending to regard the three chosen names from a European perspective as merely quaint, and not worthy of serious consideration. The map of each of the fifty states of the U.S.A. is peppered with names of this kind, revealing both a great interest in the commemoration of incidents and events in the naming process, and, not unrelatedly, the need to name many places within a comparatively short time. Above all, such names function very efficiently as designations of the locations to which they apply, and people lead ordinary daily lives in Paris, Tightwad and Peculiar. What is surprising is that many of these comparatively recent names resist being satisfactorily etymologised, and have, therefore, already been subjected to secondary re-interpretation in oral tradition.

Tightwad, for example, is said to have been named after a store-owner who cheated a mailman out of his rightful water-melon to make an extra fifty cents. The verbal accusation which is supposed to have been the mailman's response fits in well with the hundreds of other names all over the United States, the origins of which are believed to have been in that most unlikely of sources: something somebody said. Thus these names have become narratable. Peculiar also fits into this category. According to tradition, it has two possible sources. One explanation relates how the leader of some settlers from New England, when first seeing the place, exclaimed: 'That's peculiar! It is the very

place I saw in a vision in Connecticut'. The other reports that, after having had all of his many naming suggestions rejected by Washington, the post-master asked the Post Office Department for help, and was told to try something new or 'peculiar'. Strange as it may sound, the latter derivation may not be as far off the mark as might be first thought, as post-masters, frustrated by the rule that no duplication was permitted within the same state in the naming of new post-offices, often resorted to choosing unusual names, including the names of female relatives, or even their own names. These post-office names have frequently developed into modern settlement-names, although many of them have not survived. Paris, on the other hand, represents a different strand in the naming of places, not only in Missouri, but in the whole of the United States. It is not a direct import from France, but, together with Versailles, was transferred as an un-analysed entity from Kentucky. Even in Kentucky these names still do not reflect the direct influence of Frenchmen, for Paris replaced *Hopewell* in 1790 so as to conform with the name of the county in which it is situated, Bourbon (which, in turn, had been given to honour the French royal family for its help in the American Revolution); and Versailles (earlier *Falling Springs*) was named in 1792 by General Marquis Calmes after the supposed birthplace of General Lafayette. (Others, however, regard it as a direct transfer from France.)

As the chapter-headings of the volume indicate (Native American Place Names, The French Explorers, The First French Towns, Towns for the Fur Trade, etc.), it is the author's main aim to make toponymic evidence come alive for the non-specialist reader as valuable pointers to local and state history. In this respect, she has certainly been successful. In passing, she also proves that it does not pay to ignore, even if they may stretch our credulity, stories that have become attached to place-names, or to dismiss them as irrelevant to scholarly onomastic research, for their very telling has sometimes shaped or perpetuated the modern spelling of these names.

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Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

Sixth Annual Conference: Glasgow 1997

The sixth Annual Study Conference organized by the Society for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland was held at St Andrew's College, Bearsden, Glasgow, from 4 to 7 April 1997. The programme was organized by Dr Carole Hough. It began with a 'brief history' of 'Place-name studies in Scotland' by their doyen, Professor W. F. H. Nicolaisen (Aberdeen). He dwelt longest on the earliest attempt at systematic study of Scottish place-names, in the 'Old Statistical Account' of the 1790s, where curiously many of the modern controversies about their origins were foreshadowed. Discussion afterwards was enlivened with memories of past giants of place-name study south of the border.

On the Saturday morning Dr Richard Cox (Aberdeen) spoke on 'Onomastic luggage: variability in the onomastic landscape'. The particular kinds of luggage he had in mind were those brought by colonizers to new countries, and the variability which that induced by interaction between their and the natives' languages. Mr Ronald Black (Edinburgh) spoke on 'Scottish fair-names', which he interlinked most entertainingly with dates of the calendar and time of night and day, and with names of saintly and lairdly patrons. Mr Peter McClure (Hull) expounded 'The interpretation of hypocoristic forms of baptismal names in Middle English (and Middle Scots)'. Full and hypocoristic mentions of the same individuals showed that short forms did not always belong with the full names which they were phonetically closest to. The consonantal alteration instanced in 'Richard' and 'Dick' seemed especially farspread.

In the afternoon there was a visit to Glasgow Cathedral. Dr Simon Taylor (St Andrews) put to good use there his skills as a former professional tourist guide, with reference to both the architecture and the lurid legends of its patron saint, Kentigern. Back at St Andrew's College, Mr Peter Kitson (Birmingham) spoke on 'Old English bird-names', paying particular attention to that of the peregrine falcon, which he claimed as the one contribution of the Anglo-Saxons to modern scientific nomenclature. Professor Nicolaisen questioned whether it was

philosophically proper to count names of natural species as 'names' at all, rather than lexical items. The speaker's view was that in natural language these items are Janus-faced, performing not only the functions of ordinary words but those which, in modern western languages, are hived off into the Linnaean binomials, which no-one will deny are proper names. Dr Kathryn Lowe (Glasgow) spoke on 'The bounds of possibility: charter texts and place-names', exemplified from the work of cartulary scribes who were pretty accurate as copyists but essentially without understanding what they wrote. Tania Styles (Nottingham) came to 'Whitby revisited: Bede's explanation of *Streanæshalch*'. She reviewed various explanations that have been put forward for the name which in southern Old English would be normalized as *Strēones heath*, and for an explanation of it by Bede that seems to depart from his usual translating practice. Vigorous discussion followed; the Roman signal station still has its adherents, though the speaker was not one.

On the Sunday morning there was a change of rooms, to distance the Society from a convention of Scottish dancing, mainly by children of primary-school age, and what the cautious officers feared might be too loud sound of bagpipes. The Annual General Meeting passed off with a speed that betokened profound contentment with their handling of the situation. Dr Doreen Waugh then spoke about 'The Unst place-name project', where the topic of ethnolinguistic origins surfaced again, and Mr Ian Fraser (Edinburgh) commented that the Norse were in several respects technologically better equipped than the Picts to exploit a Shetland environment. Dr Thomas Clancy (Glasgow) spoke on 'Place-names, poetry and politics among the men of the north', drawing on published translations of early Welsh poetry by his father Joseph.

Mr Fraser's own paper on 'Place-names of the Stirling area', described by him as 'basic in the extreme', opened some southern eyes to contemporary national(ist) sensibilities in place-name diction. 'I can say "the valley of . . .", but not "the Endrie valley"', he declared, recounting the outcry there had been when signs saying 'Strathspey' were replaced by ones saying 'Valley of the Spey' (the *status quo ante* was soon restored). This prepared us for a coach trip to Stirling Castle, led by Mr Fraser in respect of place-names on the way, and by Dr Taylor when we reached the destination. In the evening there was no general discussion such as has been customary in previous years, but a new departure, a conference dinner. It finished with the punctuality traditionally attributed

by English people to a different Gaelic nation, but there was still just time for a visiting speaker, Dr Barbara Crawford (St Andrews), to give a paper on 'The Norse in the North'. She sought information from place-names on strategic questions, such as where the Norse Earls of the treeless Isles got timber for ships, and how they made sure that an adequate supply of horses was there to meet their fleets when needed for land campaigns. 'Karl Hundason' in the *Orkneyinga Saga* was revealed as Macbeth.

P. R. K.

Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

Essay Prize

1. A prize of £50 will be awarded annually for the best essay on any topic relating to the place-names and/or personal names of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Man or the Channel Islands.
2. Submissions are invited from all students and other researchers. The prize will normally be awarded to those who have not hitherto had work in onomastics published.
3. Essays should be about 5,000 words in length.
4. Entries should in some way make an original contribution to the subject.
5. One copy of the essay should be submitted to the Secretary of the Society in clear typescript, double-spaced, and including a bibliography of source-material used and of books and authors cited.
6. Entries will be judged by a panel appointed by the Chariman of the Society, and may be considered for publication in *Nomina*.
7. Entries must be submitted by 31st May each year. Provided an essay of sufficient merit is forthcoming, the winner will be announced at the Annual Study Conference in the spring of the following year.

Entries should be sent to:

The Secretary
 Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland
 Queen's Building Library
 University of Bristol
 University Walk
 BRISTOL BS8 1TR

Nominal value, IV

by Ratoun

(with a little help from his friends)

On the ethics of cartonomastics

Having seen the dose of philosophical linguistics in your Rat's piece in *Nomina* 19, a friend was moved to write as follows:

A philosophical query: does a proper name with no referent still count as a proper name? I ask because I've been reading about some cartographic shenanigans in Mark Monmonier's [a.k.a. Monnier, R.] book, *How to Lie with Maps* (University of Chicago Press, 2nd ed., 1996).

Some years ago maps of Colorado suddenly sprouted a previously unrecorded mountain called *Mount Richard*. This ghostly landmark persisted on official maps for several years, until somebody noticed that the mountain not only was unknown to the locals but signally failed to project conspicuously above the surrounding terrain. The innovation was eventually traced to an apparently bored cartographer called Richard Ciacci, who presumably didn't see why Messrs Pike, McKinley *et al.* should get all the glory purely on grounds of blatant altitudism.

A second example is an official map of Michigan, which gratuitously added to the urban sprawl of neighbouring Ohio by conferring upon that state two new towns called Goblu and Beatosu. The cartographer in this case was clearly a fervent fan of the football team of the University of Michigan, the Blues, whose fans regularly screech 'Go, Blues!', especially when the Blues are trying to beat their great rival, Ohio State University. In this case, the additions were apparently deliberate and sanctioned, with the intention of nailing any would-be plagiarists, in the manner of *Who's Who*. If you can't trust a map, what can you trust?

I presume the answer to the query is uncontroversially yes: names may lack actual referents (e.g. *Ultima Thule* and the planet *Icarus*, as the names were first used), but let's not be po-faced; let's balance the fun of zero referents with other paradoxical funs. One of the first local pop-groups I ever discovered was called *The Group with No-Name* [*sic*—there are precedents in Homer. The other end of the nominal cline is represented by the former Billy Linich, who arrogates the N-word to himself and calls himself *Billy Name* (*The Relieving Officer Friday Review*, 25/4/97, pp. 23).

Motorway sensitivity

Under the dialectally unsettling heading, 'Indians Nix Naming Road on Res after John Wayne', Edythe Jensen reported (*The Arizona Republic*, 4/6/97):

No road named *John Wayne* will swagger through the Gila Indian Community. Pinal County supervisors renamed Maricopa Road from Interstate 10 to Arizona 84 *John Wayne Parkway* in May, and are facing protests from Native Americans along the route. Leaders of the Ak-Chin and Gila River Indian Communities don't want the name of an Indian-fighting star on their street signs. As a compromise, supervisors will vote June 18 to designate two names—*American Indian Veterans Memorial Parkway* through the Gila River Indian Community and *John Wayne Parkway* everywhere else.

One of the supervisors observed judiciously, 'I don't know how they're going to fit all those words on the Interstate 10 turnoff sign.'

Why is Meopham ludibund?

Another friend reminds me of a vexatious Anglo-Saxon charter of 939, dealing with Meopham in Kent (Birch, no. 741; Sawyer, no. 447):

One curious case is that cited in Ekwall, *Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 4th edition, p. xx: 'cui ruricolae appellativo usu ludibundisque vocabulis nomen indiderunt ÆT MEAPHÁM'. Ekwall claims that this holds up the phrase *æt Meaphám* to ridicule, but that 'it was not the prepositional phrase the scribes found ridiculous, but the name itself'. But does *ludibundus* mean (as Ekwall implies) 'ridiculous', or does it mean rather 'playful, sportive'? If so, what is implied? Was there something in the name itself that they found ridiculous or playful?

Indeed, it probably wasn't the prepositional phrase that got the scribes excited, since *æt Meaphám* was not a fossilized name; the charter also contains *to meaphám*, and is contemporarily endorsed *Meap hames land boc*. What does the heavy Athelstanian Latin mean? Let's try: '. . . [in that place] which the yokels have called, by dint of giving a name and in playful words, *æt Meaphám*.' Two things suggest themselves: (1) the writer hadn't the foggiest idea what *meap* meant (and nor have we); (2) his fancy was tickled by that nice long, slightly diphthongal, low front vowel, which made one sound irresistibly like a sheep when uttering it. (Try it with suitable amplitude modulation.)

Do you need to ask why Scunthorpe is ludibund?

The following snippet appeared in the Online supplement of *The Relieving Officer* (16/1/97):

Deutsche Telekom is denying access to Web sites mentioning the city [sic!] of Scunthorpe. 'We have been informed that the word Scunthorpe is considered rude in the English language', a DT official told Andrew von Gamm, Cologne correspondent of International Broadcasting magazine.

The crudest thing at issue here is the computation. Some internet service-providers use automatic filters to try to help detect obscene material. Some of the faster (i.e. stupider) filters just apply a search for a list of naughty character sequences. Poor old Scunthorpe ('*Skúma's* thorp or outlying farm', according to Ekwall and Fellows-Jensen), embodying such a sequence, triggered the obscenity filter.

In fact, this was old news. Clive Feather, whose e-mail address is <cdw@cityscape.co.uk>, had forwarded to RISKS list a long item from the *Computer Underground Digest*, no. 8.29, 11/4/96, from Doug Blackie <STEELBEAT@aol.com>, which relates an experience Doug had in trying to register with America On Line. He entered his name 'Blackie' and his home town 'Scunthorpe', and found that A.O.L.'s (muck-raking) registration programme would not accept that combination. After various discussions with the A.O.L. jobsworths, he discovered that he could register properly if he entered the town as *Sconthorpe*. (Well, there are some historical precedents there for minim-letter abuse.—R.) As a result, A.O.L. has announced that the name of the town will henceforth be *Sconthorpe*, presumably even on Scunthorpe's own web-pages, eventually! The whole smutty saga is documented in the *Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph* (final edition, Tuesday, 9/4/96), no doubt defaced by the lesser technology of blue pencils in all good local libraries.

Netter Rob Kling observed:

There is a lot of info regarding Scunthorpe obtainable via [search engine] Alta Vista. This is a real city and its integrity deserves respect, even if it is not exactly a place well-known to people in the US. (For example, see <http://www.computerprint.co.uk/scunthorpe/travel.html>.)

There is nothing at this site about beach parties in Scunthorpe, but there is, at the time of writing, a barely credible list of absolutely filthy

foreign place-names. (Funny—the smut filter didn't cut in for this web-address.—R.)

The long-term solution may be the one discovered in *Ace* tennis magazine (4/10/96), which reminds us that Ian Botham used to play professional football for Sunthorpe United; but don't ask me why this was in *Ace*.

More onomastic censorship

The [Brighton] *Evening Argus* (22/4/97, p. 6) reported, 'Councillors are considering renaming a stretch of Sussex coastline because it sounds "sexist"'. Can you believe it? The offending moniker is the Manhood Peninsula south of Chichester. The worst of its problems is coastal erosion—perhaps the analogy is uncomfortable for the aging politicians of the area. The locals are derisive; the visitors are indifferent. One said, 'We have been coming here for years and never even thought about it.'

Itinerarium Rodentium: Frome to Wiveliscombe

Frome: We start the annual curiosity-hunt at that abode of elderly gentlewomen, The Blue House—probably not named from their stockings, but also apparently not from its paintwork.

Pilton is where the annual Glastonbury Festival actually takes place; the latter name has a more New Age ring than *Shepton Mallet Festival*, which would constitute rather more accurate route advice.

Glastonbury has attracted all sorts of wonderful antiquarian names, like that of the bridge Pomparles—less parlous since strengthened to carry the A39. It also has *Wearyall Hill*, no doubt yet another instance of *Wirral*. Can all these really be '(bog-) myrtle corner'? OE *wīr* is said to mean 'myrtle' on the basis of a gloss 'myrtus' in several Anglo-Saxon glossaries, and some recipes in the *Leechdoms* where context does not help, but where Cockayne uses his knowledge of the glossaries to supply a sense. The gloss may be a tad speculative. Myrtle doesn't grow in Britain, and the glossator may have been an intelligent guesser. Who first suggested bog-myrtle, which is not myrtle, I don't know, but Ekwall, Smith, Dodgson and Mills all accept it; so does Gelling, but she notes an ecological problem, in that *Wirral* in Cheshire is free of freshwater fen, and bog-myrtle likes its feet wet, as one might infer.

Now in the modern dialects, the *wire*-word never applies to bog-myrtle, which is regularly *gale* or *gaul* (OE **gægel* or *gagol*). In dialect dictionaries, the only widespread application of OE *wīr* found in plant-names south of Yorkshire is to common knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*): *wire-weed* (Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent, Isle of Wight), or *wire-grass* (Gloucestershire); but this complacent ground-hugger is the stuff of only humdrum folk-medicine, being given to people with ulcers and to pigs off their food, and of no folk-lore known to me. *Wire-weed* means 'meadowsweet' (*Filipendula ulmaria*) in Hampshire, and 'greater bindweed' (*Convolvulus calystegia*) in Surrey. The *English Dialect Dictionary* defines *wire* also as 'the stem of any thin-growing, tough-stalked plant'. Take your pick, but don't hurtle to myrtle. The record includes a reference (Birch, no. 801; Sawyer, no. 496) to a *wir-hangra* (at Blewbury, Berkshire). You won't find 'gale' growing on one of THEM.

Bridgewater is where Bath bricks were actually made, out of Parret mud; 'Bridgewater bricks', despite the pleasant alliteration, obviously wouldn't have had the same cachet in the early nineteenth century, just as the 'Shepton Mallet Festival' misses out in the twentieth. Here we also find a named object that doesn't fit into any of the traditional categories. Look out for *Caxton*, a shelve's trolley in the local library, made of an old printer's frame (for phrase-structure grammarians, that's [[] [] []]) and equipped with a fearsome set of type-block teeth.

Spaxton has one of the rare Greek local place-names of England, *The Agapemone*. This 'abode of love' was built in 1849, by the Revd Henry Prince, for his sect, whose female adherents were required to make themselves available (as we might say) for the mistitled Reverend. This arrangement was inherited by his irreverend successor, John Smyth-Piggott, who was enabled thereby to father children named *Power*, *Glory* and *Hallelujah*. The remains of the sect were still in residence in the 1950s. If you can't find the spot, try, but without raised expectations, the nursing home, Barford Gables. (With thanks to *West Country Living* supplement, *Daily Semaphore*, 23/4/97, p. 3.)

Monksilver: What price the information that the monks who provided the specifier for the ancient name of *Silver* came here from Goldcliff Abbey, Monmouthshire?

Wiveliscombe: a place of weevils or named after a man called 'Weevil'? Since weevils feed on stored corn, no place suffering from a surfeit of them sufficient to be registered in its name will have been able to achieve the status of manor or parish. *Wifel* as a male given-name is not recorded, but Old Norse *Vifill* is. Perhaps the long-vowelled Germanic etymon of this personal name was reinterpreted in the light of OE *wifel* (*wifer*), a name for a pointed weapon, and therefore more heroic as a name-element than that of a noxious bug.

Children of our times

The favourite given-names of 1996 are tabulated in *The Cuckoo Clock* (8/1/97, p. 4). The reporter, Ian Murray, notes the leap up the girly charts of *Molly*, the name of a baby featured in a supermarket advertisement. For boys, *Jack* now outstrips both *James* and *John*, *Charlie* knocks *Charles* into a cocked coronet, and *Jake* has no competition from whatever it may be felt to abbreviate. That the first two should be (1) *Jack*, (2) *Daniel*, suggests something about the availability of drinks trolleys on the labour ward. No suggestion here of the drive to declare your child unique, as seen in the Chicago school register mentioned by Justin Kaplan and Ann Bernays in their *The Language of Names* (*New York Times*, 30/1/97, p. C17): no *Gonorleathia*, no *Xtmeng*, nor any *Zikkiyyia*.

The case is altered

Paul Vallely, in *The Indefensible* (10/6/97, p. 19). takes up cudgels on behalf of the traditional pub name and against the 'dumbing down' seen in names driven by marketing considerations, e.g., those of the *X and Firkin* chain (note the *Philanderer and Firkin* in Oxford), *The Ferret and Trouserleg* (Surbiton, of all places), and *The Pheasant Plucker* (we are spared the location of this one). But he concludes that, in the longer perspective, the brewers may be right: 'Ours is an age of mindless commercial vacuity.' Since many ancient inn names have historical and cultural relevance, 'perhaps we need our pub signs to remind us of that.' Vallely also deplores the spread of phoney Irishry. I must admit it's a bit of a shock to pass your High Street local—now, perhaps, *O'Neill's*, or *Finnegan's Wake*—tricked out like the Book of Kells, and be invited to 'craic agus céol', as if they came out of a tap like John Smith's Taddy Ales.

Call of the wild card

The Economist (26/4/97, p. 94) reports an unlikely business boom.

If an American makes an operator-assisted long-distance call, he is asked which carrier he wishes to use. Around ninety-seven per cent of callers choose AT&T, MCI or Sprint, the three largest long-distance firms. The rest may say something like 'Just pick one'. . . . KTNT Communications is a company based in a suburb of Fort Worth. Not content with a name that sounds a lot like AT&T, it has registered a variety of others as well: 'Just pick one', 'I don't know', 'I don't care', 'It doesn't matter', 'Who-ever', 'No', and more than forty other apathetic expostulations.

Unsurprisingly, calls placed with KTNT are rumoured to be up to sixty-six per cent more expensive than those of other providers.

* * * * *

Defenders of *Spare Rib's* well-known proposition, 'A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle', may care to consider the implications of the cycle-shop run by a Mr W. V. Fish in Sidmouth, Devon.

More ratiocinations in the fullness of time.

RATOUN

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(With thanks to honorary Rats, John Freeman, Gerald Gazdar, Larry Trask and Des Watson)

Envoi: Epigram for Kitson

He gains all points, who pleasingly confounds,
Surprises, varies, and conceals the Bounds.

A. Pope, *Epistle to the Earl of Burlington*.

(Advertisement)

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