

controversies from the 1970s on. Mrs. Eilis Fitzsimons (Belfast) spoke on the Manx 'St. Maughold of Kirk Maughold'. He turned out to be really an Irish saint Caelán alias Mochae, one of those whose name appears in bafflingly many forms thanks to early Irish's wealth of hypocorisms. It was remarked during discussion afterwards that the reason why so many Celtic saints are reputed to have floated on quernstones is that they make very good ballast for round boats like currachs. The maritime theme was kept up by the next speaker, Mr. Bill Richardson (Australia), continuing his occasional series on groups of names on early charts. Those he was concerned with today were for features off Selsey Bill, 'The Owers, Les Ours, Weenbrug and "The Old City"'. The morning was rounded off by Dr. Peder Gammeltoft (Copenhagen), with a survey 'On place-names in *-toft*, *tote* and *tobhta* from Shetland to the Isle of Man', taking into account both usage in the Scandinavian homelands and linguistic nuances of several stages of naturalization into Gaelic.

The customary Sunday afternoon coach excursion passed through places entertaining from a cross-linguistic point of view, starring Manx *moddey oaldey* 'wild dog' and the original St. Trinians. Its physical aspect proved less satisfying, thanks partly to rain, partly to restrictions of access designed ostensibly to inhibit spread of foot-and-mouth disease from the mainland, but mainly because carved stones we came to see *in situ*, either roofed over to protect them from the elements or actually in church buildings, had no adequate illumination available to see them properly. In the evening Dr. Rosemary Power (Derby) spoke on 'Man and contacts in the Middle Ages'. Viking princes appeared in her account less as martial heroes than as politicians, often inadequate ones. Discussion afterwards included mention of an Irish king, his name conventionally normalized in diplomatic Latin as the biblical Malachi, who became Marmaduke when he crossed the Irish Sea.

P.R.K.

### John Field (1921–2000)

John Field died on 2 July 2000 in his eightieth year. All of his scholarly achievement was published after he was fifty, and he never had the luxury of holding a university post to give him space to develop his research interests. This makes his achievement, impressive enough in itself, even finer. He carved out for himself a unique position in English place-name studies by his expertise in field-names, and was the unrivalled authority on this topic. His book *A History of English Field-Names* (HEFN; 1993) is a lasting monument to his scholarship, an excellent accessible but authoritative survey of the topic, and a narrative complement to his earlier dictionary *English Field-Names* (1972), which he had worked on whilst holding a teaching post at Dacorum College in Hemel Hempstead. When he noted in HEFN (p. 7) how much improved the English Place-Name Society's attention to field-names had become since 1945, others might have stressed how much John's own work had contributed to discrediting the once-prevalent view that field-names were of little interest.

John's scholarship was not narrowly confined to field-names. He produced two survey volumes plugging real holes in the coverage of the academic literature which has traditionally been county- and nation-based: *The Place-Names of Greater London* (1980), not superseded till David Mills's recent volume on the topic; and a conservative if still sound and scholarly work covering *The Place-Names of Great Britain and Ireland* (1980), the first to cover both islands together and still challenged only by Adrian Room's *Dictionary of Place-Names of the British Isles* (1988) and its *editio minor*. He also wrote an introductory book for the 'Discovering' series of Shire Publications (1971, 1976, 1984), his first book, packed full of tantalizing EPNS-based material for newcomers to the discipline and for the casual general reader with historical leanings.

These works still have a useful role in providing sound general reference works for non-specialists; but more than for these, I suspect, John will be remembered for that wonderful resource, *A Reader's Guide to the Place-Names of the United Kingdom* (1990), a massive and authoritative annotated bibliography of place-name studies written jointly with Jeffrey Spittal, a new supplement to which was completed, in defiance of his increasing physical impairment, just before his death and will appear imminently under his own name. The introduction to the *Guide* should be required reading for anyone wanting to enter the world

of place-names; it is a succinct history and methodology of the discipline, and contains supportive guidance for those local historians who might consider themselves ill-equipped to enter it. Perusal of its index (if it were needed) reveals the extent of his own contribution to the literature: some thirteen articles, conference papers and pamphlets by the date of printing in addition to the books already mentioned, including thematic papers on field-naming such as the pamphlet *Compliment and Commemoration ...* (1973, 1986) and two seminal papers in *Names* in the 1970s. He contributed further conference papers after the publication of the *Guide*.

If John ever wearied of feeble jokes about being an expert in his field, he never showed it. He showed good humour in conversation as in his books where there is many a dry observation—often a quotation—well placed amid the scholarship. I particularly like his comment that lists of the names of common fields ‘may seem to the casual reader, as the vocabulary of *Bradshaw’s* railway guide did to Sherlock Holmes, “nervous and terse, but limited”’ (*HEFN*, p. 11), and all can share his evident pleasure at the rhetorical monstrosity quoted in the same book on p. 148, n. 6. He was also a man of great modesty, and in his later decades adopted roles of far more importance than their title would imply. He was from the early 1980s the EPNS’s editorial assistant, and was involved in the first steps of the Society to adopt the new technology. This led him to a major role in the production of the county volumes and resulted eventually in the much-improved appearance of the Society’s *Journal* from volume 18 onwards. It led also to the just recognition of his scholarly input, first by way of an acknowledgement in the preface to *Place-Names of Lincolnshire Part I* (‘... he prepared the whole of the first draft of the text and made many unacknowledged suggestions of interpretation, which only he will recognise’ (K. Cameron), and similarly also in later volumes), and then by title-page acknowledgement of his collaboration from volume III onwards. His modesty and lack of pomposity was reflected in such deflating observations as that names like *Colonel’s Meadow* suggest ‘ownership or occupation by rank-conscious retired officers’ (*HEFN*, p. 174).

He was, in short, a fine and generous scholar and a thoroughly nice man who will be keenly missed at conferences, in collaborations and on the councils of his art alike.

RICHARD COATES

### Kenneth Cameron (1922–2001)

In March this year English onomastic scholarship suffered a great loss with the death of Kenneth Cameron, emeritus professor of English language at Nottingham University. Even after his retirement in 1987, however, he was constantly engaged on his last big project, the survey of the place-names of Lincolnshire, of which six volumes have been completed. He was well known internationally as the leading authority on English place-names. His book *English Place-Names*, which was published in 1961, was reprinted several times, in 1996 in its fourth revised edition. It has been used as a handbook in several countries. As a teacher in an English department in a Swedish university for many years, I consider it the most suitable introduction for students of English toponymy.

Lincolnshire is a large county, an important part of the Danelaw, i.e. the part of England which came under subjection to Danish rulers and landholders in the late ninth century. The contact between English and Scandinavian never ceased to fascinate Cameron. Already as a young man he had brought out a toponymic survey in three volumes of Derbyshire (*The Place-Names of Derbyshire*, 1959), another Danelaw county in which he could demonstrate a Scandinavian element, although less prominent than that in Lincolnshire.

Cameron became Professor of English Language at Nottingham in 1963. He succeeded Professor A. H. Smith as Director of the English Place-Name Survey on the latter’s death in 1967, a post which he held until 1993. In some of his reports as Director, Cameron expresses his gratitude for the long-established contact between the English Place-Name Society and Uppsala University, especially the Departments of English and Scandinavian languages, which was particularly lively in Smith’s time. He visited Uppsala himself on several occasions, for instance as examiner and guest lecturer. During the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Uppsala University in 1977, he was one of those who received an honorary doctorate. He was also awarded the Jöran Sahlgren Prize by the Royal Swedish Gustavus Adolphus Academy. He was a fellow of the British Academy and was made a CBE in 1987.

Many people will still remember the lively debate in the sixties and seventies about the interpretation of the Scandinavian place-names in England. In his book *The Age of the Vikings* (1962), P. H. Sawyer argued

that earlier ideas about the size of the Viking army (the *micel here*) had been consistently exaggerated. In his opinion they were based on reports from terrified monks. Sawyer considered the place-name evidence of small value. According to Cameron a reappraisal of the Scandinavian place-names in England was required, for they were the most important evidence. This reappraisal was begun by him. He examined the most important types of Scandinavian place-names in England in relation to land utilisation, the supply of water, availability of arable land, grazing land, fuel, building material and the like. On the map his different categories form meaningful patterns for which he provides plausible interpretations which are now generally accepted by younger scholars. In a second edition of his book (1971), Sawyer modified his position considerably. Cameron maintained that no Viking army could have been responsible for such a wide and comprehensive linguistic impact on England as suggested by the place-name evidence if we only connect it with the settlement of those members of the *micel here* who preferred to stay in the country. We have also to consider an influx of peaceful Scandinavian settlers in the wake of the army. He also made important contributions to our understanding of the Celtic element in English toponymy in articles which have a bearing on the discussion about the Celtic survival in the Anglo-Saxon period.

Listening to Cameron when he gave an account of the models he had devised for the study of his different categories of names was always fascinating. He explained his points in a quiet, unpretentious way, but the listener soon realized that his arguments carried great weight. His results have usually been accepted by younger scholars. He has left a solid foundation for future research into the Scandinavian place-names in England. He will be greatly missed also in Sweden. In Uppsala we have not only lost a devoted scholar but a colleague who was a true friend for over thirty years.

KARL INGE SANDRED

## REVIEWS

DAVID POSTLES, *The Surnames of Devon*, with a chapter contributed by RICHARD MCKINLEY, English Surname Series, editor David Postles, vol. VI. Leopard's Head Press: Oxford, 1995. xx + 332 pp., 22 figures, 84 tables. £19.00. (ISBN 0 904920 25 9)

This is a welcome addition to the English Surname Series, the dominant style of which was established by the late Richard McKinley, who wrote four of the previous five volumes. McKinley's approach was mainly typological, the bulk of the chapters dealing in turn with each of the five traditional categories of surname (locative, topographical, occupational and relationship names, and nicknames) plus a chapter or two on other topics and always including one on the rise of hereditary naming. With McKinley's growing mastery of the subject this approach proved increasingly effective as a method of comparing the surname characteristics of one county with another, and I assumed that the new volume on Devon names would follow the same format. But with a new author (and series editor) what we get is something rather different, in which anthroponymy is seen much more from the perspective of a modern social historian. Gone are the chapters devoted to the five formal categories of surname, to be replaced by chapters with titles like 'Migration and Mobility', 'Change within Communities during the Later Middle Ages', 'Bynames, Surnames, Social Group and Region', 'Naming and the Urban Hierarchy' and 'Isonymy and Community' (chapters 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9).

While there are some losses in a change of approach there are also some interesting gains. Before I discuss them, however, I want to commend Postles' inclusion of the one chapter that does follow the old formula, chapter 4, contributed by McKinley himself on 'The Evolution of Hereditary Surnames in Devon'. This is an impressively lucid and informative essay that reminds us of what a fine and productive scholar we have lost. The chapter concludes with a short and useful addendum by Postles on the heritability of surnames amongst the free and unfree peasantry.

Postles' approach is, as I have indicated, significantly different in emphasis from McKinley's, and there is much to be gained from looking at county surnames from other perspectives. A good example of this is the second chapter, 'Dialect and Local Usage', in which an important subject that was in the background in McKinley's volumes is now brought to the foreground, and in so doing provides us with a comprehensive picture of what is characteristic of Devonian surnames. All five types of byname are represented but they are discussed in terms of the phonological, morphological or lexical features that are

distinctive of the region. Particularly interesting are Postles' comments on *-ing* as a suffix in topographical bynames (*Thorning, Stoning, Brooking* and so on), in his observation that *-makere* in occupational bynames is a fairly late medieval usage in Devon towns, and in the absence of *-son* and the relative scarcity of *-s* in relationship bynames until the end of the medieval period.

One practical reason why Postles gives typological analysis a subsidiary rather than an organising role is that bynames do not always fall neatly or consistently into the five traditional categories. In his opening chapter on methodological questions he points out, for example, that byname forms in *de* and *atte* are often used interchangeably in medieval Devon, where much of the settlement is of a dispersed nature. The usual distinction between 'locative' and 'topographical' surname types is thus substantially blurred, and Postles' decision not to use these categories as discrete chapter topics seems well justified. So there is no chapter on locative surnames *per se*, but we do get one on 'Migration and Mobility'. We learn that movements of individuals were mostly very localised, especially at the lower end of the social scale; that the city of Exeter had more pulling power than other towns in the county, migrants being drawn from other boroughs within and beyond Devon as well as from abroad; that Devonians moved out to Glastonbury, Oxford and Bampton and sometimes back again, mostly via Church patronage and ecclesiastical manorial holdings; and that Devonian merchants turn up (some of them surnamed *Devenish*) in other major ports, towns and cities. This is most interesting, though the reader will naturally wonder why, aside from *Devenish*, there are so few references to surnames, let alone the locative bynames that would constitute primary evidence of mobility. The answer is that locative surnames and their social implications are examined in detail in later chapters, especially chapters 5, 'Change During the Later Middle Ages', and 8, 'Naming and the Urban Hierarchy', and it is a pity that readers are not told this at the end of chapter 3. Perhaps the chapters might also have been re-ordered so as to bring related material closer together.

The dispersal of related data among different chapters is perhaps an inevitable consequence of opening up the subject of county surname history to a variety of perspectives. This in turn presents some problems of how to organise the material in ways that maintain coherence within and across chapters. Chapter 5 is the heart of the book and I suspect it is the decisions made there that have had most impact on the shape and content of the other chapters. The subject of chapter 5 is 'Change During the Later Middle Ages', and it is based on a comparison of bynames or surnames in the lay subsidy rolls of 1332 and 1524. The topics are discussed within the familiar categories (locative and topographical, occupational, relationship names and nicknames) and at ninety-three pages this one chapter constitutes almost a third of the book.

Indeed it is almost a small book in itself. At its core, *The Surnames of Devon* is not unlike a McKinley survey after all but only covertly so, for in spite of the daunting length of the chapter there are no internal subheadings to guide the reader as to the chapter's structure.

That said, chapter 5 brims with information and thoughtful consideration of many complex issues. A brief review cannot do proper justice to these or the other matters raised in the remaining chapters, and a few illustrations will have to serve for all. On page 110 Postles notes that between 1332 and 1524 there was a sharp fall from 34 per cent to 26 per cent in the proportion of locative bynames. He suggests many possible reasons for this, including changing name habits, changing populations, the fortunes of individual families, the intrusion of other types of byname from outside Devon and intrinsic differences in the two data bases—the 1332 roll being socially more exclusive than the 1524 roll, thus perhaps over-representing the free classes, with whom locative surnames are usually associated. Postles is surely right to see such changes in the pattern of names as evidence of social change. Pages 142 to 144 are devoted to an interesting discussion of tin-miners' bynames. Even in the early fourteenth century none of the Devon tin-miners bore names related to the industry. Most bynames were locative or topographical, while about nine per cent in the 1332 roll were occupational, all of which related to other trades, as though tin-mining itself were only a part-time occupation. It seems that tin-mining in Devon was not a sufficiently distinctive occupation to generate its own bynames, and one wonders why. In a substantial discussion of the christian names that enter into Devon bynames (p. 155 onwards), Postles draws our attention to an unexpected finding, that extremely common forenames like *John* and *William* do not produce greater numbers of patronymics than moderately common forenames like *Adam* and *Stephen*. This is an important observation because the contrary assumption (that the relative popularity of patronymics and metronymics will correlate with the relative popularity of the corresponding forenames) has often been silently invoked to support etymologies of particular bynames and to draw general conclusions about medieval christian name usage. Towards the end of the chapter (p. 173 onwards), Postles convincingly proposes that a Devonian knightly family, bearing the hereditary surname *Cole* in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, may have descended from the pre-Conquest thegn named *Cola* in Domesday Book. *Cole* is not limited to the upper classes, however, and is widely distributed in medieval Devon in remarkably high numbers. No less than sixty-eight taxpayers in the 1332 roll have this byname, compared to fifteen taxpayers who have a patronymic byname derived from *Adam* (p. 159, Table 5.22). This would suggest that there might be some additional sources for *Cole*, such as the short form of *Nicol* (Nicholas), which was a moderately common

forename in medieval Devon, but Postles categorically rules this out, arguing that all instances are from Old English *Cola*. I don't think the evidence presented is strong enough to support such a conclusion, nor the accompanying view that the byname *Collin* derives from Old English *Colling* rather than the familiar diminutive pet form of *Nicol*.

The English Surname Series works to a high standard of scholarly excellence and this volume is no exception. The one weakness of the series, as reviewers have pointed out, is in the area of etymology. *The Surnames of Devon* similarly suffers from some etymological vagueness and inaccuracy. For example, Postles' discussion of bynames in *-man* and *-wyn* (pp. 25–28) becomes somewhat confused when he doesn't distinguish *-man* in its Middle English lexical senses from *-man(n)* and *-wine* as second elements in Continental Germanic and Old English personal names. Etymological imprecision can also lead to doubtful analyses. In the chapter on 'Dialect' there is a detailed discussion of *atte yeo* and *atte watere* with an accompanying distribution map. Postles assumes that they are identical in meaning and so compares their distribution and frequency of use over time. But whereas *yeo* exclusively denoted 'river', *water* had a wider range of senses in Middle English, including not only 'river' but also 'pool, mere' and 'area subject to flash flooding' (see Gelling and Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names*, pp. 30–31). So it is questionable whether the basis of the comparison is entirely valid. Postles' conclusion that 'during the later middle ages, Yeo seems to have become more prevalent than *atte Watere*' (p. 30), though statistically accurate as far as the 1332 and 1524 rolls are concerned, is probably not meaningful in the way that he intended.

Readers will find this an interesting and useful book, in spite of it being a difficult read at times. There is frequently a lack of clarity in the exposition of the material, which is uncharacteristic of Postles' other published work, and perhaps reflects insufficient time for revision before going to press. Postles' approach to surname history is more complex and more varied in focus than McKinley's, and though it is not realised in a fully coherent way in this volume, it clearly signals a change in direction for the series. The dust jacket tells us that the next volume, covering Leicestershire and Rutland, 'will mark the completion of the study of counties as the Survey will then turn its attention to more broadly based regional enquiries into the history of surnames'. This new phase of the English Surname Series promises to be an innovative one and the new editor deserves all our support and encouragement.

PETER McCLURE

IAN A. FRASER, *The Place-Names of Arran*, The Arran Society of Glasgow: Glasgow, 1999. 168 pp. £9.75 paperback. (ISBN 0 907526 76 4)

This is a valuable contribution to Scottish toponymics, bringing together as it does not only the expertise of the author, Ian Fraser, who has been working at the Scottish Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh, since the mid 1960s, but also the oral collections made by W. F. H. Nicolaisen in the early 1960s. Nicolaisen's informants came from both the Gaelic and the Scots speaking communities on the island, the former consisting of only a few score of folk.

The names are set out alphabetically in three separate sections: 'Settlement Names', 'Topographical Names' (erroneously called 'Topographical Elements' in the List of Contents p. 4) and 'Field Names and Minor Names'. Since it is not always clear to which category a name belongs it would have been more user-friendly to have had an index, or simply to have put all the names in a single alphabetical list. Running headers in each section would also greatly help the readers to orientate themselves. There is, however, a very useful Elements Index divided into 'Gaelic' and 'Norse', giving the full form of each element, as well as examples of places containing the element in question.

There is an extensive discursive section which helps put Arran place-names into a wider Scottish context. This looks at the different languages which have contributed to the place-nomenclature of Arran, from the probable pre-Gaelic name of the island itself, by way of Gaelic, Norse and Scots names, to 'names of the future', consisting of Scottish Standard English names given in particular to high relief features by mountaineers and hill-walkers, an offshoot of the importance to the modern Arran economy of the leisure and recreation industry.

It is to be regretted that this otherwise so comprehensive book has no maps, apart from the map of Arran taken from Blaeu's *Atlas* (1654), used as an attractive cover design. Even one showing the two parishes, Kilmory and Kilbride, and the chief glens and settlements, would have been a great asset. In the discussion of elements such as *baile* ('farm, estate') and *achadh* ('field, secondary farm') and their distribution, reference is made to distribution maps, but one has to look for these elsewhere, for example in the Scotland-wide distribution maps of Nicolaisen (in *Scottish Place-Names* [1976] or the *Atlas of Scottish History* [1996]). An interesting feature to emerge from Fraser's analysis of *baile*-names (pp. 20–21) is how late several of them are, referring to small-holdings and small tenanted units established as late as the nineteenth century. Out of the thirty-eight named king's farms in Arran in the mid-fifteenth century, there are no places containing *baile*, and J. Burrell's list of 105 farms from the year 1766 contains only three. This contrasts with names containing *achadh*,

which is not only more common but also occurs earlier in the record, with three of the above-mentioned king's farms containing this element (Auchencairn, Auchagallon and Auchencar). This ties Arran in with Renfrewshire and north Ayrshire, where *baile*-names are very thin on the ground, in contrast to the ubiquitous *achadh*-names.

Both Auchencairn and Auchencar contain specifics which refer to nearby prehistoric features (a cairn and a standing stone respectively). Fraser derives the specific in Auchagallon (*Achagalan* 1440) from Gaelic *gaillionn* 'storm'; however, it is worth considering the possibility that it contains a Gaelic word related to Irish *gallán* 'standing stone', referring in this case to the nearby stone circle. A more secure instance of Irish usage is found in the application of the element *srath*, which usually means '(broad) valley' in Scotland, well-known in such names as Strathclyde and Strathgryfe. However, in its one surviving occurrence in Arran it has more its Irish sense of 'grassy sward, low land by a river': Strabane refers to flat alluvial land at the mouth of the Glenrosa Water.

Another of the royal farms attested in the fifteenth century is Glenshant, a name which applied to the lower section of Glen Rosa near Brodick. Early forms such as *Cranschant* suggest *crann seunta* 'sacred tree', and are reminiscent of the Irish *bile* 'sacred tree', often where the inauguration of a ruler took place. Forms with *gleann* do not appear until the late sixteenth century, and are almost certainly the result of generic element substitution, whereby a less familiar toponymic element is replaced by a more familiar one. It is striking to note that one of the oral informants gave a pronunciation which preserved *crann* as the first element (p. 81), underlining the importance of the oral record.

A similar substitution of one generic element for another is found in the modern Strathwhillan, which appears in the early record as *Terquhillane* etc. In this case Gaelic *tìr* 'land' has been replaced by Scots *strath*, borrowed from Gaelic *srath*.

Norse settlement is discussed in a separate section in the Introduction (pp. 52–60). Since there are no habitative elements in the Norse place-names of Arran, Fraser assumes that 'if they [the Norse] had a serious interest in the island, it was in terms of its natural resources—timber, fish and game'. The implication here is that they did not actually settle on Arran. However, it is difficult to imagine how so many important settlements and features can have retained Norse names to this day without a period of fairly intensive settlement by Norse-speakers, names such as Brodick, Sannox, Ranza, Goat-fell. In fact, the topographical names—names referring to topographical features such as valleys, rivers and bays, without any direct reference to human habitation—are likely to have been given to Norse settlements in the earliest phase of Norse

colonisation. The lack of names with habitative elements points rather to the fact that by the time secondary settlements were formed from the core holdings, Norse was no longer the chief language of Arran, since it seems that it is above all these secondary settlements which contain habitative elements.<sup>1</sup> Other important names of Norse derivation, later incorporated into Gaelic names, are Glenrosa, containing the Norse *hross-á* 'horse river', Glenormisdale and Glenashdale (*Glenascadale* 1503). Glenshurig almost certainly belongs to this same group: early forms such as *Glenservaig* and *Glensherwik* make Fraser's tentative suggestion that it contains Gaelic *searrach* 'foal' very unlikely.

The importance of topographical names in the early settlement-nomenclature of Arran is equally pronounced in the Gaelic-derived names. One has only to look at the names of the medieval royal lands, many of which contain such generic elements as *leitir* 'slope' in *Letternagannach*, now Letter, *machair* 'machair, raised beach, fertile coastal strip' in Machrie, *cnoc* 'hill(ock)' in Knockankelly, and *monadh* 'muir, upland grazing' (or perhaps *mòine* 'peat-bog, moss') in Monyquil (*Monyculye*) and Monamore (*Monymor*).

Other interpretations of the specific elements of some of these place-names are possible. For example Fraser, following A. Cameron,<sup>2</sup> would derive the specific of Letter, the earliest recorded form of which is *Letternagannach* (1440 *Exchequer Rolls* v, 82), from a Gaelic word *cannach* 'canon', 'reflecting an early deal that James II made with the canons of Glasgow, when he granted them the whole Crown rents of Arran in payment of 800 merks'. It is surely too early in the reign of James II (1437–60) for this element to appear in the place-name recorded in 1440. However, it is possible that the later forms *Letirganaganach* 1449 *ER* v, 362, and *Letirganaganach* 1450 *ER* v, 408, have been re-interpreted in the light of this ecclesiastical connection as containing Gaelic *cananach* 'canon' (the more usual Gaelic word for a secular or regular canon than the word *cannach* quoted by Fraser p. 87). I would suggest, however, that the original specific was Gaelic *gamhainn* 'stirk' or *gamhnach* 'cow with a year-old calf', found also in Gannochy, Kinnoul parish near Perth (*Ganoquhy* 1540).

As one of the king's farms Knockankelly (discussed p. 85) appears early in the record (mid-fifteenth century), variously as *Knokankelze* and *Knokankelle*. Fraser would derive this from *Cnocan Coilich* 'little hill of the cock'; however,

<sup>1</sup> This model is based on A. Jennings, 'An Historical Study of the Gael and Norse in Western Scotland from c.795 to c.1000' (unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Edinburgh, 1994).

<sup>2</sup> A. Cameron, 'Arran place-names', *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness*, 15 (1890), 122–39.

the early forms suggest rather a specific *coille* 'woodland', while the first element could equally well be interpreted as *cnoc* + definite article, thus *cnoc na coille* 'hill or knowe of the wood'.

Note that at the foot of p. 42 a name has been omitted. The text reads:

'Torr nead an Eoin ([NR]952493, 325m) 'middle hill', just west of Cock Farm'

Torr nead an Eoin is indeed at the Grid Reference given (NR952493), and is c. 325m high, but means 'hill of the bird's nest'. The 'middle hill' just west of Cock Farm is Torr Meadhonach NR9551 (330 m).

### Fiscal Names

Arran provides a rich collection of what Fraser terms fiscal names, and these he brings together on pp. 21–24. These are names which indicate what might be termed the rateable value of the land, that is the tax or tribute it was expected to pay annually. The most wide-spread of these names contain the element *peighinn* 'pennyland', and it appears in such heavily disguised forms as Leven for *leth-pheighinn* 'half-pennyland', in Levenorroch and Dippin for *da pheighinn* 'two-pennyland'. The quarter-penny or farthing-land is in Gaelic *feòrlinn* or *feòrling*, and is found in the Arran place-name North and South Feorline. This is first recorded in 1405 as *Twafurlangis*, and shows assimilation to Scots *furlang* 'furlong'. It would seem from this that the fiscal sense of this place-name had already been lost by the early fifteenth century. Another fiscal element is Gaelic *marg* 'merkland', that is land valued annually at a merk or two-thirds of a pound, found in such place-names as Marganish, Gaelic *Marg an Eas(a)* 'merkland of the water-fall' (pp. 23 and 89).

In this section Fraser also mentions divisions of lands such as *ceathramh* 'quarter' and *ochdamh* 'eighth', adding that neither of these are found on Arran. In respect of the former (*ceathramh*) this is in marked contrast to neighbouring Bute, which has probably the highest density of place-names containing this element anywhere in Scotland (e.g. Kerrylamont, Kerrymoran etc.). There is no doubt that a study which compared and contrasted land-divisions and fiscal units on these two islands which make up the bulk of the sheriffdom of Bute would help throw light not just on their early administrative history but also on the use of fiscal elements throughout western Scotland.

### Pronunciation

The phonetic scheme used is clearly set out on p. 63, and basically follows International Phonetic Association principles. However, in the actual descriptions of pronunciations, there seems to be some confusion about the use of the secondary stress mark (a small vertical stroke in lower position), which, as we

are correctly told on p. 63, indicates secondary stress on the following syllable. Very often the definite article in the middle of a place-name, which is part of the specific or qualifying second element, is shown as bearing secondary stress. For example Alltan an Ath (p. 100) ('wee burn of the kiln') is shown as bearing the secondary stress on the definite article *an*, whereas it should surely be shown on the first syllable of the name. Similarly in Achadh na Cloich (p. 150) 'field of the stone', the secondary stress is shown as falling on *na*. Such examples of mis-placed secondary stress can be found on almost every page. Other pronunciations show only secondary stress, which must also be a mistake e.g. Drimiginar (p. 78) and Allt a'Mhuilinn (p. 100). The phonetic pronunciations are those of various oral informants, and not of the head word. These pronunciations are of great value, and are quite rightly included, but it is a pity that modern pronunciations, used by present-day locals, have not also been given.

Despite these and other minor short-comings, such as the general lack of length marks on Gaelic or Norse words, this book must be an essential addition to the library not only of anyone interested in Scottish toponymy, but also of all who care about the history and culture of this magnificent island.

SIMON TAYLOR

ÅSE WETÅS, *Namneskiftet Kristiania—Oslo*. Novus forlag: Oslo, 2000. 242 pp. no price stated. (ISBN 82-7099-325-5)

On the first of January 1925, the name of the Norwegian capital was changed from *Kristiania* to *Oslo* after lengthy debates in the national newspapers, the city council and the Storting (parliament). Deliberate and conscious name change is by no means an unusual onomastic phenomenon, but when names of major cities are changed it is most often caused by serious political upheaval, e.g. *St Petersburg* > *Leningrad* > *St Petersburg*. During the first two decades of the twentieth century the official names of Norwegian counties, municipalities and towns were subjected to close scrutiny as regards their national worthiness, farm names having already been revised through the new official land register of 1886. The spellings of many of them were revised, as *Christiania* had been officially—though not in every respect in practice—changed into *Kristiania* by resolutions in 1877 and 1897. In some cases old names were replaced by new ones, among those twelve of the eighteen counties (in all of which the Danish 'amt' was replaced by 'fylke', from Old Norse *fylki*). The reason for these changes was of course the search for national identity following the (peaceful)

breaking-up of the Norwegian-Swedish Union (1814–1905) and the establishing of Norway as an independent nation after 500 years of Danish and Swedish rule. During this period the old written vernacular was replaced by Danish, causing Danish spelling of most established names. However, as this period coincided with the expansion of trade and the growth of minor settlements into towns, some of these towns had been given new names after the foreign fashion of commemorating the sovereign by using his name in the naming of places (*Fredrikstad*, *Fredrikshald*, *Fredriksvern*, *Kristiansund*). Some of these have been left unchanged, but *Fredrikshald* was changed back to *Halden* and *Fredriksvern* to *Stavern*. The most notable of these name changes was naturally *Kristiania* > *Oslo* and this change has up till now been regarded as non-dramatic and uncontroversial. In the work being reviewed here, originally written as an MA thesis, it is shown that this was in fact not the case.

Åse Wetås' book includes a discussion of the nature of name change in general and also a highly interesting debate on the question of beautiful vs. ugly names. Based on an examination of contemporary newspapers (1919–25), she describes popular opinion on the name change, and analyses how this opinion is reflected in the city council and parliamentary debates. One chapter discusses the question and importance of folk-etymology, associative meaning and unwanted homonyms. As regards *Oslo*, one of the more curious interpretations suggested that the supposed founder of the city, Harald Hardråde, named the city after an Hungarian mistress Oslava (or—in another version—a Bulgarian princess Miroslava). In the conservative Kristiania newspaper *Morgenbladet* (2nd May 1924), someone signing himself "Anti-Bolshevik" claimed that *Oslo* was a Russian word for 'ass' used as a swear word, while *Kristiania* was a beautiful name, testifying to a Christian population, a Christian city. Another letter to the editor (*Morgenbladet* 26th June 1924) expressed the anxiety that English-speaking people would pronounce and interpret the name *Oslo* as "Oh, slow!" and considered this less than flattering to a city whose citizens regarded themselves as both progressive and energetic.

The more historically interested readers may appreciate a thorough and reliable account of the origins of *Oslo* as well as *Kristiania*, which—as is well documented—was the name King Kristian IV gave to his new city founded in 1624 close by the old castle of Akershus. The old town Oslo—a couple of miles east of the castle, across the bay—had been burned by Swedish troops in 1567 and again in the summer of 1624. As was only to be expected, many people refused to move to the new regulated and brick-built city, preferring to rebuild their cheaper, wooden houses. Thus the name *Oslo* remained in use for this poor 'suburb' which gradually, as Kristiania grew, became a part of the city but inhabited exclusively by the lower classes. The name *Oslo* was soon associated

with poverty and eventually socialism, and this may ultimately have been the real reason for the sharp political division which appeared in the debates leading up to the city council and parliamentary votes. According to a table presented by Ms Wetås (p. 189), the Conservative party unanimously voted against the name change, while the Labour party representatives were equally undivided in their support for it. When the matter was finally decided by the Storting (cf. table p. 196), the Conservative party was, however, divided and Ms Wetås explains this as a result of the habitual distrust of the city and its people by the rural population.

Another important reason for the name change was certainly the strong feeling of nationalism, so evident in the years following the end of the union with Sweden. In Chapter 9 ('The Name Change and the National Ideology'), Ms Wetås points to evidence showing that the Conservatives made up the majority of those less eager to leave the union in the years leading up to 1905, and she points to parallels between that matter and the name change. Closely related to this is also the struggle for a national Norwegian language, the disciples of the New-Norwegian ('nynorsk') movement were mostly in favour of *Oslo*, which on the other hand caused many conservatives to strengthen their struggle against the name change. Incidentally, once the name change became official, the opposition vanished more or less overnight, and the new name was generally adopted even to the extent that those private companies who had *Christiania* (or *Kristiania*) as part of their business names more often than not exchanged it for *Oslo*.

As regards the interpretation of the name *Oslo*, Ms Wetås covers—so far as I can see—most previous suggestions. The second element *-lo* means 'meadow', all earlier interpretations having long since been proven wrong by serious name scholars. The first element is, however, still debated, although most scholars of Old Norse and Old Germanic now hold that it reflects Germ. \**ansu-*, Old Norse *áss*, 'god'. Ms Wetås, on the other hand, seems not to discard the idea of it being *áss* in the sense of 'ridge', possibly from Germ. \**amsaz-* 'shoulder', but—surprisingly for such a mature, though young, scholar—she leaves the question unsettled.

Åse Wetås' book is well laid out and well written, with a comprehensive and useful list of contents which to some extent makes up for the lack of an index. The few notes are, unfortunately, found after the last chapter, as is often the case in books from these publishers. The turn of the century photograph on the front of the book deserves special mention. It depicts the parliament building (Storting) in the centre of the city, but in front there is a tram on its long journey to Oslo.

TOM SCHMIDT



MARGARET GELLING and ANN COLE, *The Landscape of Place-Names*. Shaun Tyas: Stamford, 2000. xxiv + 391 pp., 68 figures. £25.00 hardback, £17.95 paperback. (ISBN 1 900289 25 3, 1 900289 26 1)

Participants at the Society's Bangor conference in April 2000 will remember the delayed start to the first session due to the excitement attending the launch of *The Landscape of Place-Names* by Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole. Essentially a rewrite of Gelling's *Place-Names in the Landscape* (Dent, 1984), it sets out with compelling logic and full supporting evidence the authors' thesis that topographical place-names dating from the Anglo-Saxon period reveal a systematic use of specialized terms for identical land-formations over most of England, and in some instances also southern Scotland and parts of Wales. Like the previous book, it is divided into seven chapters on 'Rivers and Springs, Ponds and Lakes', 'Marsh, Moor and Floodplain', 'Roads and Tracks: River Crossings and Landing Places', 'Valleys, Hollows and Remote Places', 'Hills, Slopes and Ridges', 'Woods and Clearings' and 'Ploughland, Meadow and Pasture', each comprising a general introduction followed by detailed articles on individual place-name elements. New articles include Old English (OE) *bær* 'pasture', OE *byden*, *beden* 'vessel, tub', OE *canne* 'vessel for holding liquid', OE *cetel* 'kettle, cauldron', Old Norse (ON) *haugr* 'tumulus, hill', OE *pēac* 'peak', OE *pīc* 'point', OE *trog* 'trough' and OE *\*werpels* '?track'. Others such as OE *cwabba* 'marsh', OE *ēgland* 'island', ON *fjall*, *fell* 'mountain', OE *flōde* 'channel of water', ON *gata* 'road, street', OE *plæsc* 'shallow piece of standing water' and the lengthy essay on OE *trēow* 'tree' have been omitted. More importantly, however, the whole book has been thoroughly overhauled and updated in the light of reaction to the ideas put forward in 1984 and of additional field-work by the authors. Definitions and etymologies have been extensively revised, and the text is now written in a more user-friendly fashion, with the lists of place-name occurrences separated off into a reference section at the end of each article. An appendix presenting a case study of the toponymy of The Chilterns is entirely new, and the rewrite also benefits from the inclusion of nearly seventy line-drawings and distribution maps. The illustrations and appendix are by Ann Cole, the text by Margaret Gelling, but their shared responsibility for many of the ideas and insights is evident throughout.

Like its predecessor, this is an outstanding book in the field of English place-name studies. It presents an important and convincing argument as well as offering up-to-date and reliable information on a wide range of place-names and place-name elements. The focus is on major settlement-names rather than minor or field-names, and on topographical rather than habitative formations. Long considered to be both less ancient and less interesting than habitative names,

topographical formations are now recognised as an early stratum of Anglo-Saxon toponymy, and prove to reflect crucial distinctions of meaning within an area of vocabulary more subtly differentiated in Old English than in Present Day English. Of words generally translated 'hill', for instance, Gelling and Cole demonstrate that 'the defining characteristic of a *beorg* is a continuously rounded profile' (p. 145), while OE *dūn* is 'consistently used in settlement-names for a low hill with a fairly level and fairly extensive summit which provided a good settlement-site in open country' (p. 164) and OE *hyll* 'appears to be used for hills which do not have the clearly defined characteristics of those called *beorg* or *dūn*' (p. 192). Other terms have similarly precise meanings: OE *cumb* 'short, broad valley, usually bowl- or trough-shaped with three fairly steeply rising sides' (p. 103), OE *gelād* 'difficult river-crossing' (p. 81), OE *ofer*, *ufer* 'flat-topped ridge with a convex shoulder' (p. 199), OE *wæsse* 'land by a meandering river which floods and drains quickly' (p. 63), and so on. All have been meticulously researched, and most articles leave little room for doubt that the proposed interpretation is indeed correct. More than one hundred Old English generics are included, with over twenty from Old Norse and about a dozen from the Celtic languages, yet even these do not exhaust the full range of possibilities. At the beginning of Chapter Five, Gelling notes that 'a dozen or so terms which only occur in a few settlement-names have been omitted' (p. 143), and although some articles include fairly detailed discussion of minor names, the full spectrum of field-name vocabulary remains to be explored. This offers the pleasing prospect of scope for further research, as indeed does the somewhat sketchy coverage of the Scottish evidence. A number of generics are common to both northern England and southern Scotland, but occurrences north of the present border tend to be under-represented in the reference sections since, as Gelling points out, 'there is as yet no comprehensive study of Scottish place-names' (p. 224). ON *kelda* 'spring', for instance, is said to be 'only found in northern counties and Scotland', but all citations are drawn from England (pp. 18-19), while the article on OE *side* 'side' (p. 219) mentions the two Berwickshire occurrences cross-referenced in the English Place-Name Survey for Cumberland (Fawside and Fallside) but ignores Bemersyde, Birkenside, Caldside, Chirnside and Fairmieside in the same Scottish county. A fuller investigation not only of these but also of Celtic toponymic vocabulary in Scotland could lead to yet more advances in this fascinating and complex area of study.

The book is eminently readable, combining the authors' usual clarity of exposition with occasional glimpses of humour. It is mildly frustrating that there are so many references to forthcoming work, especially Peter Kitson's *Guide to Anglo-Saxon Charter Boundaries*, which cannot at present be followed up; but at least this situation will be resolved when the publications in question finally

make their way into print. A more serious difficulty concerns the relationship with the 1984 book *Place-Names in the Landscape*. The present volume is a complete rewrite rather than a second edition, but although it supersedes its predecessor, it does not stand independently from it. Many articles refer the reader directly to *Place-Names in the Landscape*, apparently on the assumption that this will permanently be to hand. At the beginning of the entry for OE *halh*, for instance, Gelling writes, 'This word was treated exhaustively in Gelling 1984, and there is not a great deal to add to that discussion' (p. 123). A few pages later, we are reminded that 'A more detailed analysis of the senses in which *halh* is used in settlement-names will be found in Gelling 1984' (p. 127). The entry for OE *ecg* begins, 'There is little to add to the discussion of this word in Gelling 1984' (p. 173), and p. 272 notes that 'The region-by-region survey of the frequency of *feld* which was included in Gelling 1984 need not be repeated here'. On p. 279, we read that 'There is little to add to the discussion of this word [*hæth*] in Gelling 1984', while in order to pursue the issues raised in the article on OE *hamm*, we are advised to consult the scholarly literature, 'details of which can be found in Gelling 1984' (p. 49). For those of us in happy possession of the earlier book, this is not a problem, but it seems short-sighted in view of the fact that *Place-Names in the Landscape* has been so substantially superseded by *The Landscape of Place-Names* that it will certainly not remain in print alongside it. As time goes on, it will be increasingly difficult to obtain the 1984 publication, and new scholars will be hampered by an inability to follow up references to it.

Very little material is repeated verbatim from *Place-Names in the Landscape*, so it is unfortunate that a rare exception—the first five paragraphs of the article on *feld*—contains one of the few factual errors in that book. Discussing the date at which *feld* came to mean 'arable land' rather than 'open country', Gelling observes that 'Ælfric's colloquies, written about then [the end of the tenth century], include a statement by a ploughman that he drives his oxen "to felda" at dawn, and yokes them to the plough' (p. 270). Whereas Ælfric's *Colloquy* does indeed date from towards the end of the tenth century, it was written in Latin. The Old English translation was added later by an anonymous glossator, sometimes identified with Ælfric's pupil Ælfric Bata, and has no evidential value for the use of *feld* in the tenth century.

The book has been excellently produced, with an attractive cover, good quality illustrations and a clear layout. Several aspects of presentation have been improved since 1984, and readers will be glad that it is no longer necessary to turn to the index to discover the meaning of a place-name discussed within the text. At the same time, however, one could wish that the running headers to individual articles had been retained. Proof-reading has evidently been rigorous.

At the beginning of the Index, 'place-names' should read 'place-name elements', and the reference on p. 219 to page 56 of the English Place-Name Survey for Cumberland should be to page 57; but otherwise I spotted less than half a dozen misprints, mostly very minor. The bibliography has been much expanded, and it seems ungracious to quibble that the form of references is not always wholly consistent. There are few notable omissions, although the summary of John Insley's interpretation of Thoresway on p. 95 should perhaps have mentioned the counter-arguments put forward by Barrie Cox,<sup>1</sup> and Simon Keynes's discussion of the location of *Clofesho* could usefully have been included alongside the much older treatment of the topic by R. H. C. Davis on p. 101.<sup>2</sup>

So thorough is the job done by Gelling and Cole that it may be difficult for later scholars to appreciate the full measure of their achievement. Due in large part to their efforts over the last twenty years or so, it is now widely accepted that topographical formations are of the utmost significance in place-name studies, and it is correspondingly easy to forget how little attention had been paid to them until the last quarter of the twentieth century. Both here and in their earlier publications, the authors of *The Landscape of Place-Names* have succeeded not only in rescuing from obscurity this important group of place-names, but in changing the direction of toponymic research in an even more fundamental way. Almost from the inception of the English Place-Name Survey, the discipline has been dominated by historical concerns. The place-name corpus has been quarried extensively for evidence relating to settlement chronology and political geography—indeed, it is largely because topographical formations appeared to have less to offer to historians that they were neglected for so long—but much less attention has been paid to other aspects of the material. With the exception of certain areas such as phonology and dialectology, the linguistic evidence is surprisingly under-exploited, and the field of historical semantics has remained virtually untouched. The pioneering work of Gelling and Cole provides a brilliant demonstration of what can be accomplished through a close analysis of a single area of vocabulary, and raises the possibility that other lexical fields may repay similarly detailed investigation. If future scholars follow their lead, the trail they have blazed may presage a new era of place-name research in the third millennium.

CAROLE HOUGH

<sup>1</sup> B. Cox, 'The pattern of Old English *burh* in early Lindsey', *Anglo-Saxon England*, 23 (1994), 35–56 (p. 42 n. 20).

<sup>2</sup> S. Keynes, *The Councils of Clofesho*, Vaughan Paper, 38 (Leicester, 1994), pp. 14–17.

PATRICK MCKAY, *A Dictionary of Ulster Place-Names*. The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast: Belfast, 1999. xiv + 159 pp. £7.50 paperback. (ISBN 0 85389 742 5)

The demand for concise, well-produced and practical books on place-names is certainly rising. A public which contented itself with a 'cheap and cheerful' booklet on local history, antiquities or landscape features has in recent years graduated to a more discerning readership which looks for a more solid and more scholarly publication. This may well have a lot to do with the rise in popularity of television programmes like 'The Time Team' which portrays the archaeologist as a dynamic individual whose task is to reveal a section of our history, and present it in terms understandable to the layman.

It would be gratifying if this public attitude transferred itself to name studies. If it does (and there are encouraging signs that it may) then Patrick McKay's *Dictionary of Ulster Place-Names* is an excellent blueprint for onomasticians.

The volume explains the derivations of some 1,300 Ulster names, in the nine counties of Ulster (three of which, Galway, Monaghan and Cavan are in the Irish Republic), and the mediaeval parish sites. The format is described in a brief chapter entitled 'How to use this book', where a typical entry is outlined under 'headword', 'variant spelling', 'location' (giving a four-figure grid reference), 'parish and barony', 'derivation and pronunciations guide', 'meaning', 'discussion', and 'earlier spelling and date'. The complex nature of Ulster townlands, with their qualifiers (north/south, east/west, etc.) is therefore clearly explained. Abbreviations, notes on pronunciation, and a glossary of technical terms, follow. This last section is useful for the non-Ulster reader, who may well be unfamiliar with terms like **ballybetagh**, from Irish *baile biataigh* 'land of a food-provider'.

There follows an alphabetical list, from **Acton**, Armagh, to **Woodburn**, Antrim. The entries vary from the mundane **Hillhall**, Co Down (p. 81), which once rejoiced in the name **Kilmuck**, and **Greenisland**, Antrim, to onomastic gems like **Kilcoo**, Down, 'St Cua's church', and the splendid **Poisoned Glen**, Donegal, a translation of Irish *Cró Nimhe* 'hollow/glen of poison', referring to the tradition that Lugh Lamhfhada, or 'Lugh of the long arm', killed his grandfather Balar here by piercing his 'evil eye' and that the blood from the eye flowed down the glen and poisoned it. It is also said that since that event no bird has ever sung in the glen (p. 120).

No publication of this kind is complete without an index of elements, and this is found at the end of the alphabetical list (pp. 149–56). It usefully quotes examples from the list for each entry. A note on further reading is supplemented by a select bibliography of some seventy-five items.

I found this a highly practical guide to Ulster place-names. It is based on sound scholarship and yet succeeds in its prime aim—the provision of an up-to-date, clear and succinct paperback which will satisfy a wide readership. The illustrations, of which there are more than fifty, range from line-drawings of such as Monea Castle, Ballycopeland Windmill, Co Down and the elegant round tower at Clones, Monaghan, to simple line-cuts to illustrate **Iniskeeragh**, Donegal, 'island of sheep', where four black sheep perch precariously on a rushy island in a grove of wind-blasted trees.

At £7.50, *A Dictionary of Ulster Place-Names* is excellent value, with a high standard of presentation. It deserves every success, and should be on the bookshelf of every reader with an interest in Ireland, its history and nomenclature.

IAN FRASER

BOTOLV HELLELAND and LEIF NILSSON, eds., *Utlandske namn i Norden*. Norna Rapport 68. Norna Forlaget: Uppsala, 1999. 263 pp. no price stated. (ISBN 91 7276 066 4)

I found the contents of this volume something of a surprise. I have seen—and indeed have sometimes reviewed—articles on the infiltration of names from other cultures into Scandinavia and the official reaction to them. There are in fact two papers in this symposium which deal with this matter, and one, by Vera Lif, which is a kind of bridge between this subject and the main theme.

In fact the *utlandske namn* of the title refers to the concept of exonyms and endonyms, and particularly to the resolutions of UNGEGN, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. If, like me, you find these terms unfamiliar, a useful starting point is Eeva Maria Närhi's paper 'Exonyms from a national and international point of view', not only because it is written in English, but for the precise classification and clear exposition of the problems involved with both sides of the question.

Exonyms—and Närhi defends the use of the borrowing against the imprecision of terms such as 'foreign' or 'conventional' name—was defined at a meeting of this UN group in 1972 as a 'geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical area is situated'. An example may be clearer than the definition. You call it Moskva and we call it Moscow; Moscow is the exonym.

It is a truism that 'the world has got smaller in our time' and standardisation

of geographical names is obviously desirable in international enterprises. Although English has many claims to be an international language, the frequently repeated resolution of the United Nations group is towards the reduction of exonyms. The right to the use of the native form of the name is bound up with national pride in identity. In the case of Finland, Swedish, not English, is the medium in which place-names have traditionally been transmitted to the outside world. Now, says Peter Slotte in one of the papers devoted to Finland, the opposite is the case. It is not for nothing that an early advocate of the Fennicisation, not only of Finnish names but of foreign city names for Finnish consumption, was Elias Lönnrot, the compiler of the national epic Kalevala. A complicated balance is now maintained between unilingual, majority-language and Sami communities in Finland, though the Swedish forms are invariably used for places in the other Scandinavian countries.

Jógvan í Lon Jacobsen offers a critique of a new Faroese atlas, but suggests that heritage issues have gone too far. Many of the forms in the atlas have never been used in Faroe, and invented forms have been coined after notions of what Faroese people ought to call them, by transposition into Faroese orthography (*Kili* < Chile, *Kjad* < Chad), translation (*Høvdastaður* < Cape Town) and from 'old or little known Norse forms (*Björgvin* < Bergen). Jacobsen complains chiefly not of obscurity but that the principles are not carried out with consistency. The conversion of foreign names into the Faroese sound system is variable, whilst the conscription of 'Old Norse' forms appears erratic. If *Björgvin*, why not *Ódinsve* for Odense? And why not *Jórvík* and *Dyflinn*? Two maps of Iceland in different scales show the same names in two different forms.

It is difficult in a short review of a publication such as this to do justice to all the authors, since it teems with ideas and challenges the mind with problems which in our fortress of a majority language may never have occurred to us. Perhaps not in *Nomina*, but in English language printing generally we tend to be careless of diacritics, dropping them with abandon even where they totally alter the quality of a vowel. If the recommended international form is to be the name that the local people use, it may exist primarily in a non-Roman alphabet, and consistent transliteration is an elusive goal. Not only geographical names are dealt with. Patrick Chaffey considers the translation of the names of institutions into English, and to return to personal names, Vera Lif makes a persuasive case for 'the right to the right name' for immigrants. We might believe that this is the least of their troubles, but she quotes a schoolgirl in Göteborg, "Always ending up wrong in the class register and the phone book, always having to spell your name and constantly hearing it pronounced wrongly, that's to feel your identity is in question".

VERONICA SMART

SIMON TAYLOR, ed., *The Uses of Place-Names*. St John's House Papers No. 7. Scottish Cultural Press: Edinburgh, 1998. xiv + 190 pp., 66 figures. £9.99 paperback. (ISBN 1 898218 98 6)

The seven papers edited in this volume are based on the proceedings of a day conference held at St Andrews in February 1996 and followed in the evening by the inaugural meeting of the Scottish Place-Name Society. The emphasis is on interdisciplinary aspects of place-name studies, and although two of the contributions focus on Scotland, the others range widely across different parts of the British Isles. Margaret Gelling's paper on 'Place-Names and Landscape' deals primarily with the topographical toponymy of England, developing the ideas presented in her 1984 book *Place-Names in the Landscape*. A selection of terms for hills, hill-spurs, valleys and wetland features is used to demonstrate the subtlety and precision of this area of Old English vocabulary, and the text is richly illustrated with photographs, distribution maps and line drawings by Ann Cole. Turning to Wales, Terrence James discusses elements indicative of early fortifications, ecclesiastical sites and settlements in order to provide an overview of 'Place-Name Distributions and Field Archaeology in South-West Wales'. Again the illustrations are excellent, showing distribution patterns as well as examples of air photography. Wales is also the setting for the only paper not given at the conference, 'Gwaun Henllan—the Oldest Recorded Meadow in Wales?', in which Heather James describes the key part played by a ninth-century field-name in a recent Public Inquiry concerning conservation.

Literary onomastics is represented by an analysis of the use of place-names in the Gaelic ballads of Scotland and Ireland by Donald E. Meek, and linguistics by a study of 'Place-Names as a Resource for the Historical Linguist' by Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh. Both papers have a strong theoretical framework, and point to new directions for future research. Ó Maolalaigh focuses mainly on Irish and Scottish Gaelic, tackling the issues raised by fossilised forms, initial mutations, changes from *-in* to *-ie* in place-name endings, and the development of final *-ach* to *-o* in Gaelic place-names borrowed into Scots. This is a provocative and well-argued paper which challenges a number of existing views and seems certain to stimulate further discussion. It is especially pleasing that it takes account not only of the contribution of place-names to linguistic studies, but 'equally how the linguist may provide an input to place-name studies' (p. 44). All too often, toponymy tends to be regarded as a mere adjunct to the 'major' disciplines of history, linguistics and archaeology, as though the study of these topics were somehow intrinsically more worthwhile than the study of place-names. Certainly toponymy has much to offer them, but so do they have much to offer to toponymy. It is good to see the balance being redressed.

In a joint paper, Steffen Stummann Hansen and Doreen Waugh report on the early stages of a project to investigate Viking Age archaeology and place-names in Unst, Shetland. Photographs of archaeological sites and artefacts are supplemented by schematic drawings of the same high standard as other illustrations throughout the book. Attention should also be drawn to the distribution maps accompanying G. W. S. Barrow's chapter on 'The Uses of Place-Names and Scottish History—Pointers and Pitfalls'. Particularly important are those showing place-names from *aber* and *inver*, *nemeton*, *pol*, *uchel*, *pebyll* and *monadh*, which form the basis of Barrow's argument for a gradual take-over of Pictland by the Scots and for a high degree of continuity of settlement during the period when P-Celtic was succeeded by Q-Celtic. The case is a strong one, and makes a major contribution to the current debate. The second part of the article deals with place-names from Old English and Older Scots, pointing to some curious anomalies in the evidence for early Anglian settlement, and contending that the use of Scandinavian loan-words need not reflect a Scandinavian presence. Terms discussed in detail include *hill* and *threep*. The latter is convincingly attributed to the creation of new estates during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, while the former is taken to refer specifically to 'hill grazing' or 'rough grazing' in contradistinction to words for other types of hills. Additional field-work may be necessary to substantiate this suggestion, but it ties in well with Gelling's chapter on the systematic use of landscape terms in Anglo-Saxon England.

The volume has a Foreword by I. A. Fraser, an Introduction by Simon Taylor and an Afterword by W. F. H. Nicolaisen, and is furnished with an index to place-names and place-name elements. Many of the maps were drawn by Jim Renny, whose expertise is evident throughout. The papers are so disparate in subject matter that one suspects the market may be small, but most place-name scholars will find at least one chapter relevant to their own field, and may well read the others with interest and profit.

CAROLE HOUGH

## Bibliography for 2000

*Carole Hough*

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## Work in Progress

This section is intended to keep readers informed of ongoing research. Please send details of current research projects to the Editor for inclusion.

### General

- Laverton, S. (Ipswich): early history of Shotley Peninsula, South Suffolk, late Iron Age to 1066, including archaeology and place-names (book).
- Locus Project (Dept of Early and Medieval Irish, University College, Cork) Director: Prof. P. Ó Riain. Staff: Dr P. S. Hellmuth, Dr K. Murray, Dr D. Ó Murchadha. A new historical dictionary of Irish place and tribal names to replace Fr Edmund Hogan's *Onomasticon Goedelicum*, forthcoming as a fascicular series beginning with letter *A*, the final database to be published electronically as a CD-ROM (further information: [www.ucc.ie/locus/](http://www.ucc.ie/locus/)).
- Lowe, K. A. (University of Glasgow): charters of Bury St Edmunds (edition for publication in the British Academy *Anglo-Saxon Charters* series, including indexes of personal and place-names).
- Nicolaisen, W. F. H. (University of Aberdeen): entry on 'Onomastics' for the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*.
- Padel, O. J. (University of Cambridge): the Bodmin Manumissions (edition, with discussion of the personal names).

### Anthroponymy

- Cane, M. (University of Aberystwyth): men's names in Wales, Cornwall and Brittany 400–1400 AD (PhD thesis, supervised by Prof. P. Sims-Williams).
- Fraser, I. (University of Edinburgh): personal names and surnames in Scotland.
- Freeman, J. (London): index of personal names in English place-names, based on the volumes of the English Place-Name Survey.
- Hey, D. (University of Sheffield): the origin and spread of surnames in the Sheffield region; geographical patterns of English surnames.
- Hough, C. (University of Glasgow): chapter on Scottish surnames for *The Edinburgh Student Companion to Scots*, edited by J. Corbett and others.
- Lewis, C. P. (University of Liverpool): personal names in Domesday Book (as part of research on English cultural identity and the Norman Conquest).
- McClure, P. (University of Hull): hypocoristic suffixes in Middle English personal names (article).
- Moore, J. S. (University of Bristol): 'Families in English *Libri Vitae*' parts 3 *et seq*, Durham Priory (in continuation of parts 1–2 published in *Nomina*); *The*

- Anglo-Norman Family* (book for publication by Boydell & Brewer, extending the study of linguistic evidence for inter-racial assimilation and integration begun by C. Clark and A. Williams); *The Family in Medieval England* (book for publication by Boydell & Brewer, including a chapter on naming practices at different social levels).
- Muhr, K. (Queen's University of Belfast): introduction to the Gaelic surnames (Irish and Scottish) in the *Dictionary of American Family Names*, edited by P. Hanks (Oxford UP); handlist of family names found in place-names in Northern Ireland (for publication by Ulster Historical Foundation).
- Postles, D. (University of Leicester): surnames in the north of England; editing (with J. Rosenthal) a book on the personal name in the medieval British Isles for publication by Medieval Institute Press, Western Michigan University.
- Smart, V. (University of St Andrews): bibliographical commentary on the moneyers' names, to accompany the database of *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles*, [www.fitzwilliam.cam.ac.uk/SCBI](http://www.fitzwilliam.cam.ac.uk/SCBI) (the database will probably replace publication of further index volumes to the *Sylloge* series).
- Ullathorne, G. (University of Sheffield): the surnames of High Peak Hundred, Derbyshire (PhD thesis, supervised by Prof. D. Hey).

### Toponymy

- Atkin, M. A. (Kendal): *bow* names in north-west England.
- Cole, A. (Oxford): place-name evidence for the communications network in Anglo-Saxon England.
- Corrigan, L. (University of Manchester): place-names of South Cumbria recorded before 1300 (PhD thesis, supervised by Dr A. Rumble).
- Cullen, P. (University of Sussex): *The Place-Names of Kent*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey).
- Fraser, I. (University of Edinburgh): *An Introduction to Scottish Place-Names* (book for publication 2002/3); sea-names, offshore rocks and shoals.
- Freeman, J. (London): *The Place-Names of Herefordshire*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey).
- Gammeltoft, P. (University of Copenhagen): place-name databases; place-names from ON *bólstaðr* in the British Isles; place-names from ON *topt* / ODan *toft* in Britain and Denmark; place-names in Vester Horne Herred, Jutland.
- Gelling, M. (University of Birmingham): *The Place-Names of Shropshire*, vol. 4 (English Place-Name Survey).
- Grant, A. (University of Glasgow): Scandinavian place-names in Scotland as evidence for language contact (PhD thesis, supervised by Dr C. Hough).
- Harte, J. (Bourne Hall Museum, Surrey): survey of place-names in the Borough

- of Epsom and Ewell, Surrey (booklet and website to be published in 2003).
- Horovitz, D. (University of Nottingham): a survey and analysis of the place-names of Staffordshire (PhD thesis, supervised by Dr D. Parsons).
- Hough, C. (University of Glasgow): 'Domesday land-holdings and the place-name Freeland' (article forthcoming in *Studia Neophilologica*); 'Women in English place-names' (article forthcoming in the Christine Fell memorial volume); ongoing studies on English and Scottish place-name elements.
- Insley, J. (University of Heidelberg): *The Place-Names of Lancashire*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey).
- James, A. (Ashbourne): annotated index of Brittonic/Cumbric place-name elements in southern Scotland and northern England.
- Kitson, P. R. (University of Birmingham): *Guide to Anglo-Saxon Charter Boundaries* (book to be published by the English Place-Name Society).
- Laflin, S. (University of Birmingham): Shropshire place-names ending in *-ford*.
- Lewis, C. P. (University of Liverpool): the place-names of the 1686 War Office *List of Inns and Alehouses* (edition).
- McKay, P. (Queen's University of Belfast): *Place-Names of Northern Ireland*, County Fermanagh, vol. 1; continuing work on adding historical spellings to the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project database.
- Muhr, K. (Queen's University of Belfast): Dáire and the early history of Dál Fiatach (article in progress); 'The location of the Ulster Cycle: part 3, O'Neill's Ulster' (forthcoming in *Emania*); 'The influence of the Uí Néill on the place-names of the Ulster Cycle' (forthcoming in *Onoma*); 'District names in the Magennis lordship, baronies of Iveagh, County Down' (forthcoming in *Ainm*); articles on the place-names of County Armagh.
- Nicolaisen, W. F. H. (University of Aberdeen): updated bibliography and new preface for a reprint of *Scottish Place-Names. Their Study and Significance; Concise Dictionary of Scottish Place-Names* (for publication in 2004); place-name index to the eight-volume *Greig-Duncan Folksong Collection*; entry on Scottish place-names in Hoops *Reallexicon der germanischen Altertumskunde*.
- Owen, H. W. (University of Wales, Bangor): *Dictionary of the Place-Names of Wales* (AHRB-sponsored); creating a database of the place-names of Wales—computerization of the Melville Richards Archive (AHRB-sponsored); *The Place-Names of West Flintshire*.
- Pierce, G. O. (University of Wales, Cardiff): *Place-Names in Glamorgan* (an English-language version of a collection of notes on Glamorgan place-names, previously published in Welsh); a corrective note on the place-name Capel y Fanhalog and its historical associations in the parish of Llanwynno, Glamorgan (*Journal of the Glamorgan History Society*, 2001).
- Sanders, D. (University College, London): preliminary work on the character

- of place-name distribution around Anglo-Saxon cult sites in East Anglia; continuing work on the earlier Anglo-Saxon *tūn*.
- Sandred, K. I. (University of Uppsala): *The Place-Names of Norfolk*, vol. 3 (English Place-Name Survey).
- Scott, M. (Oxford): chapter on Scottish place-names for *The Edinburgh Student Companion to Scots*, edited by J. Corbett and others; ongoing work on Scottish place-names and place-name elements.
- Taylor, S. (University of St Andrews): study of the micro- and macrotoponymy of the Beaulieu area, Inverness-shire, in collaboration with B. Crawford and M. MacDonald (nine-month research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board); 'Perambulating the Marches of Gaelic and Scots: place-names and language in some medieval Angus boundary charters' (paper given to Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Language and Literature Conference, St Andrews, August 1999); *sliabh*-names in Scotland (paper given to Maynooth Medievalists Conference, June 2000); ongoing work on Scottish Place-Name Database.
- Watts, V. (University of Durham): *The Place-Names of County Durham*, vols 1 and 2 (English Place-Name Survey); *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* (Cambridge UP); *Dictionary of County Durham Place-Names*.
- Waugh, D. (University of Glasgow): Shetland place-names, in association with the Scatness project; Orkney place-names (article for a publication by Donald Omand on Orkney).
- Whaley, D. (University of Newcastle upon Tyne): *Place-Names of the Lake District* (dictionary covering some 3,000 names with substantial introduction, for publication 2002/3 by the English Place-Name Society).

#### Doctoral Dissertations Completed

- Fychan, G. A. (University of Wales, Aberystwyth): a study of the place-names of six parishes (Llanafan Fawr + Llysdinam, Llanddewi Abergwesyn, Llanfihangel Abergwesyn, Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan + Rhosferig, Llanwrtyd and Llanwrthwl) in north Breconshire (PhD thesis, supervised by Dr M. Haycock).
- Giller, A. (University of Sheffield): the surnames of Scarsdale Hundred, Derbyshire (PhD thesis, supervised by Prof. D. Hey).