

Gelling, Mrs. Ann Cole (Oxford) presented what should have been their joint paper on Old English place-names as guidance for travellers 'From Quentovic to Pons Ælius' (roughly Dunkirk to Newcastle).

Sunday began with an Annual General Meeting that managed to appoint a new treasurer and membership secretary, who later revealed an idiosyncratic definition of the latter function. More conventional lexicographic methods enabled Dr. Carole Hough (Glasgow) to document some unrecognized 'Onomastic applications of the word "white"'. Miss Alison Grant (Glasgow) juxtaposed standard theories of 'Language contact and the inversion compounds' well known in Cumbrian place-names, demonstrating a balance of linguistic probability that they were created by native Celtic-speakers (specifically Gaelic-speakers) who were adult learners of Old Norse, not as place-name scholars have tended to assume the other way round. Dr. Veronica Smart (Edinburgh) presented 'Pitit and Litelman—an onomastic conundrum', the conundrum lying in the word 'and': it looked as if a tenth-century Stamford moneyer had both a French and an English name. Mr. Victor Watts (Durham) emphasized how Old English were most of the 'Field-names of South Durham', despite ninth-century Viking distribution of the territory. Liz Sobell (Hexham) charted 'Riggs to Pingles: field-names of a Hexhamshire farm', showing how estate history could change the referential meaning of local names. Dr. Alan James (Ashbourne), with acknowledgements to Lewis Carroll and Margaret Gelling, tried to pin down the sense of an elusive place-name element in 'The hunting of the Snook'. Prof. Richard Coates (Sussex) showed very strong reason to think the standard etymology of the name 'Lindisfarne' wrong. Several of those present, however, afterwards voiced the view that the evidence he had assembled pointed to a different kind of transfer of name-elements between languages from the one he suggested.

The Sunday afternoon coach excursion, lightly guided by Richard Bailey, visited first the Anglo-Saxon royal site at Yeavering and some of its nearby predecessors and successors, then the island of Lindisfarne, where those who wished could verify the accuracy of Prof. Coates' information from Symeon of Durham. In the evening Dr. Peder Gammeltoft (Copenhagen) surveyed 'Place-names in *-toft* in England'. The weekend's entertainment was rounded off by Dr. Paul Cullen (Nottingham) 'Grappling with M' for the updating of *English Place-Name Elements*.

P.R.K.

## REVIEWS

W. F. H. NICOLAISEN (ed.) *Proceedings of the XIXth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, Aberdeen, August 4-11, 1996: 'Scope, Perspectives and Methods of Onomastics'*, 3 vols. Department of English, University of Aberdeen, 1998. xviii + 356 pp., vi + 402 pp., vi + 405 pp. £25.00. (ISBN (set) 1 902355 00 8)

This review rather parochially sets out to report on the papers delivered at the conference which may prove to be of the most relevance to name-students in Britain and Ireland, and a few remarks are included on some particularly interesting others, especially those with some theoretical import.

The three volumes come in colour-coded covers. Volume 1 is dedicated to four plenary lectures and the first batch of sectional papers, which are a miscellany of everything which is not simply a place-name or personal-name paper or one in literary onomastics (which are the subject-matter of volume 2, the bulk of 3, and the rest of 3 respectively).

The plenaries constitute a real problem; four were delivered, but two, the two of most direct interest in these islands, do not appear here and are published elsewhere, in Simon Taylor's edited collection *The Uses of Place-Names* (Edinburgh, 1998). This saps the *Proceedings* of their authority somewhat. We are left with their abstracts. G. W. S. Barrow (3-4) surveys the history of Scottish place-name study, and pleads for more attention from historians and toponymists to each other's work. Margaret Gelling's abstract (20) alludes to the richness and practical informativeness of Old English toponymic vocabulary which she has so eloquently drawn attention to over many years. The other plenaries are by Henri Dorion (5-19), who deals with the inescapably political aspects of place-naming and offers some telling anecdotes about name-changes, name-selection and allusion to names in national symbols; and Gerhard Koss (21-34), who explores the potential of proper names to be exploited in the school classroom for a large range of different educational ends—interpersonal, sociological, historical, second-language-pedagogical, science-historical, and so on. Koss's lecture reminded me vividly of Modupe Oduyoye's book *Yoruba Names* (London, 1982) offering an introduction to the Yoruba language through analysis of the complex and rich personal-naming system of the Yoruba people—a systematic working-out of what Koss believes can be achieved daily at the micro-level.

In the rest of volume 1 there are relatively few sessional papers dealing specifically with British or Irish matters. Projects, surveys and archives are three of the themes giving some foci to the miscellany presented. Veronica Smart

reports on the project to index the moneyers' names in a range of more or less problematic sources and make the results available as a database (319–24); happily she gives instructions for getting information on how to access it. Susan Fitt reports (110–16) on experimentally-grounded doctoral work dealing with naïve subjects' processing of the spelling of unfamiliar (place-)names, stressing the difficulties inherent in interpreting her results. A brisk summary history of the work of official place-name bodies in Ireland is presented by Art Ó Maolfabhail (243–51). Reminding us that onomastics may concern itself not only with proper names, P. R. Kitson's abstract (167) deals with the problems of the study of Old English bird-names, on which he has published at length in *English Studies* 78 and 79 (1997 and 1998); and Michal Ephratt, in an interesting and fairly sophisticated paper (103–09), points out that the linguistic attributes of (English-language) trade-names are constrained by the functions they perform. The only ones allowed to be registered are those which are 'generated by poetic licence' and which lack transparency as regards contemporary lexis and grammar; transparent or thinly-disguised names are subject to rigorous investigation of their capacity to deceive the customer. Ephratt then alerts us to the familiar process by which some trade-names have become lexicalized; and the reputation of a brand can result in etymologically transparent names losing that transparency, as with *All-Bran* which is the product of just one commercial firm, not a 'natural kind'.

Theoretical papers of weight include those by Terhi Ainiala (43–48), Volker Kohlheim (173–78), Staffan Nyström (229–35), Bengt Pamp (252–56), Rudolf Šrámek (325–29) and Willy van Langendonck (342–48). I particularly liked Nyström's insistence that the properness of an expression need not be an all-or-nothing matter; he sets this out partly in the manner of earlier theorists such as Alan Gardiner and Bo Ralph—some names may be better examples of names than others—and partly with an eye on the fact that meaningfulness (sense) in names may be an effect which surges or fades (normally the latter) in the tides of conversation and longer-term interaction between speakers. The use of names may also continue to be informed etymologically by the senses of their lexical source-words even after the names have been coined and established (van Langendonck and Ainiala also accept this view (346 and 46–47)). To claim this, however, is not to assert that names work exactly as other lexical items do. Ainiala follows a similar line in discussing certain Finnish local names. Pamp, on the other hand, starts unpromisingly by taking for granted the long-standing standard view, shared by Ainiala, that proper names are 'monoreferential lexicalised noun phrases', which appears to entail that properhood is a permanent feature of the expressions in question (as Pamp later affirms); and unless denotation is carefully distinguished from reference (which Pamp does not

do here) the definition is demonstrably false. Ainiala asserts categorically that an expression 'is always either a proper name or an appellative'. If that means it is impossible for objects with a status intermediate between proper and non-proper to exist, I agree; if it means that the same expression, in relation to the same referent, cannot be used now properly, now non-properly, I don't agree, and I have argued the point elsewhere. As Nyström notes (see above), the etymology of a transparent expression which the user usually uses without regard to its lexical content may be accessed by that user on other occasions. Van Langendonck's paper is an eye-catcher; he claims an iconic relationship (probabilistic rather than absolute) between place-name morphology and degree of relation to human settlement (as opposed to some other geographical status) viz. greater morphosyntactic complexity reflects less human direct involvement with the place in question. He situates his work within that paradigm of linguistics which attempts to set up implicational universals, i.e. universals of the type 'if a language has feature X it will also have feature Y'.

Like Nyström, Kohlheim is interested in the mental (theoretical) organization of names. What is a name-system? Can names display systematic properties? He believes that they can, in three senses: they are oppositionally-related within denotational categories, and thereby constitute systems (of e.g. place-names and personal names); the items of this first analytic level may systematically change their relation to denotational categories (e.g. special rules may apply in the morphosyntactic behaviour of some name-categories—personal names may normally take determiners in French and German, but may not normally in English; personal names marked for their bearers' sex may become non-sex-specific); and the items of the first analytic level may display formal features which can be analogically extended as if they had systematic import (the existence of a cluster of place-names in *-X* may cause *-X* to be extended 'unetymologically' to others). Kohlheim also explains that 'the onymic system' as a whole is autopoietic, 'self-(re)producing', in a sense made familiar in the biological and later the social sciences.

I can pick out in addition two other papers in this volume as of general interest and significance. Rudolf Šrámek (325–29) is concerned by the methodologically dependent status of traditional philological onomastics on etymology, and would prefer to see the etymological phase of name-explanation as simply the first step in an operation which also takes into account those typological properties which are specific to proper names and motivations for name-bestowal. X. Ll. García Arias (124–29) reflects on what the presence or absence of current lexical items from (micro-)toponymy might tell us, and Stéphane Gendron (130–33) on the role and significance of 'folk-etymology' (the term is duly problematized) in the life of names after their coining.

I shall end my remarks on volume I by giving a brief flavour of its 'international' content. Non-insular projects reported on include the Australian National Place-Names Project (61-67), Latvian hydronyms (68-71), the *International Handbook of Onomastics 1995/96* (200-05), the *Deonomasticum Italicum* (301-10), and the pilot work on *Das historische deutsche Vornamenbuch* (311-18); there is an abstract of a history of Canadian onomastic writing (194), and there are assessments of current university onomastics in the Czech Republic (134-39) and in Israel (147-54).

Volume 2 is devoted to place-names. Scottish-themed papers are in evidence, and some are little more than graceful acknowledgements of the fact that the congress took place in Scotland. Tom Gasque (127-32) offers evidence for the rather thin contribution of Scots (in both senses) to South Dakotan toponymy. Cyril Hromnik (199-210) has an astonishing paper 'demonstrating' the contribution of Sanskrit and the Dravidian languages to the place-names of the far north, including especially *Ness*. The methodological flaws and the ageing sources used, as well as the inherent implausibility of the thesis, are all too evident, and a judicious paperectomy would have enhanced the status of the proceedings. The significant Scottish papers are Ian Fraser's careful analysis of the senses and distribution of Gaelic *sliabh* (119-26), Simon Taylor's abstract on element-alternation in eastern Scottish place-names (350; the paper appeared in full in *Nomina*, 20 (1997)), and Richard Cox's philologically impeccable study (59-65) demonstrating the semantic specialization of Scandinavian *berg* shared by Scottish and Faeroese Norse and Orkney Norn to mean 'precipice', 'exposed rock face'. Doreen Waugh (378-83) shows the value of fieldwork (done in Shetland) for revealing unexpected alternative namings—some popular continuations of names ostensibly replaced by official ones, some popular obliterations of historic ones by new coinages. This paper is a welcome reminder that toponomastics shouldn't just be about the documentary record, and that toponymy doesn't just freeze. Scholars outside these islands are fully aware of this—witness for example Marja Kallasmaa's demonstration (228-32) of what happens when written records are sparse (insular Estonia, in this case): either wholesale folk-etymology constrains (or rather fuels) the evolution of names or the etymologically-minded investigator is left clutching at straws. Svavar Sigmundsson (330-42) presents a rather inconclusive discussion of possible onomastic congruencies between Iceland and Scotland, raising the possibility for instance that *Breiðabólstaður*, a frequent place-name in Iceland meaning 'broad farm', may have been taken as a ready-made name from Scotland, where it is well represented.

There are two good papers on Ireland. Kay Muhr (259-70) analyses the relation among different orders of place-naming in Iveagh, County Down, and

uses the opportunity to give expert credence to a recent claim that the distribution of crannogs, as high-status sites often in use till the seventeenth century, is related to patterns of local administration. She shows that as far as Iveagh is concerned, the relevant local administration is not the parish system but the pattern of family holdings of the secular lords Magennis. Patrick McKay (234-40) reveals the differential effects of Charles II's injunction of 1664 to get rid of 'barbarous and uncouth' Irish names; in adjacent baronies, there are quite distinct patterns of anglicization, which tally significantly with whether the landowner was an English anti-Irish zealot or a moderate accommodating Ó Néill who embraced the Thirty-Nine Articles.

England is represented by several papers making interesting and well-substantiated claims about individual elements. Mary Atkin (15-23) argues for a special significance for the *Ansty* group of names; these places are named from (often) hidden tracks directly linked with major throughways such as ridgeways, and they appear to afford easy access to a supraregional system of trackways important for the maintenance of law and order or permitting access to distant outliers of holdings. At Domesday, the Anstys are generally in the hands of those with responsibility for the maintenance of order. Gillian Fellows-Jensen (101-06) addresses the perennial question of whether Scandinavian names in *thwaite* in England are to be attributed to Danes or Norwegians and concludes that the answer is 'both'; in her analysis these names are of the Viking period, and, whether they represent new fellings or expansions through felling of farms taken over from previous cultivators, they are evidence for the expansion of the area under cultivation, unlike names in *thorp*. Carole Hough (192-98) establishes an English pedigree for the rare element *farm* in primary names; she argues that it is for Old English *feorm*, not Middle French *ferme*, and, with appropriate generics, means 'leased or rented land not discharged from the duty to provide food-rent'. Mattias Jacobsson's abstract (221) about Old English minor hydronymy regrettably does not take us far, but serves as a reminder of his book on the topic which appeared shortly after the congress (Uppsala, 1997).

Mary Higham (178-85) reports interestingly on the utility of monastic 'charters' in establishing the history of territories, and for the complex of disciplines including archaeology, the history of farming, place-name study and even palaeoclimatology. The paper by John Field on the field-name evidence for woad cultivation (107-11) is a model of careful attention to both the linguistic and the cultural facts, and points out the diagnostic possibilities of innocent-looking words like *ground* and *cabin*. Jennifer Scherr (325-29) takes up the challenge of accounting for the difficult medieval Glastonbury name *Brutesayshe*, arguing that it is a new instance of a *brutaske* or brattice, the range of possible applications of which term she discusses judiciously.

There being no papers on the names of Wales in this collection, we move finally to one dealing with material from both Scotland and England by Theo Vennemann (359–63), where he briefly puts forward his well-known controversial view that there have been two linguistic waves across Europe since the last retreat of the glaciers and before Indo-European arrived: firstly a ‘Vasconic’ one covering much of the continent including England, and secondly an ‘Atlantic’ one affecting the west of these islands especially. He regards names in *bid-/bed-* as evidence for the first, and since he believes they are significantly distributed with respect to the road-system (a concept that could usefully be subjected to some deeper analysis) he relates them to the Basque word *bide* ‘road’. The *pit-* names of Pictland he regards as evidence for the second, and he sees the origin of this term as shared with reconstructed roots in the Afro-Asiatic language-family (formerly called Hamito-Semitic), including the remote sub-families Chadic and Omotic. These views might politely be called ‘daring’. For what it is worth, I don’t believe the Vasconic hypothesis, not least on the grounds that Vennemann has nothing general to say about the onomastic partners that the *bide*-word keeps in the various languages nor the implications of the ways it forms compounds with them. Where earlier material is compounded into later names, this can only happen if the material is borrowed as a lexical item or is a proper name (at least from the perspective of the receiving language). But Vennemann seems to think that such elements—apparently not borrowed and not functioning as proper names—can just freely form compounds like a native word, witness his wish to explain in this way Bideford, Bedhampton and Bedford. On the Atlantic hypothesis, I have an open mind. There seems to be far better reason to believe, following the fragmentary classical literature, in visitors to Britain who might have known Afro-Asiatic languages, and perhaps even that they were part of a longer tradition of population movement or cultural movement from the south (a view explored in Barry Cunliffe’s recent book *Facing the Ocean* (Oxford, 2001)). We have much to explain, such as the non-Celtic vocabulary in Irish and the wretched fragments of Ivernian, and such visitors might have a role in the drama. Vennemann has written seductively on such matters of Africa elsewhere (e.g. in the forthcoming proceedings of the Mekrijärvi conference on early contacts between Celtic and English, which took place in 2001). He is not alone in these proceedings, however, in rejecting or ignoring Kathryn Forsyth’s recent (1997) demonstration that the hypothesis of non-Indo-European Pictish can no longer be sustained. Hromník doesn’t appear to know whether Pictish was Dravidian (non-IE) or Aryan (IE)—but never mind.

Briefly, there are three other papers which dabble toes in the shark-infested waters of Basque matters; one is highly respectable (Alfonso Irigoyen, 211–20) and one isn’t (Domingo A. Moreira, 256–58), and Andrea Appelt (9–14) allows

herself to get sucked into the study of a root which is allegedly represented in pan-European hydronymy including that of the Basque Country.

Other papers which caught the eye of an insular toponymist are the following, mostly by Scandinavians: Botolv Helleland has judicious things to say (169–77) about pagan place-names (in Norway) and what they might or might not tell us about continuity of religious activity at a given site. Åse Kari Hansen (163–68), writing about Scandinavian Normandy, shares with Kallasmaa a concern with the analogical impact on imported place-names of local vocabulary and (place-)nomenclature, and with Fellows-Jensen one about the borrowing by indigenous languages of the vocabulary of colonists; he notes that the concept ‘Scandinavian name’ can be methodologically problematic. Mats Wahlberg (372–77) writes interestingly about official intervention in street-naming practices in Sweden, from the seventeenth century to modern times. The extraordinarily complicated history of the names applied both locally and abroad to the area now occupied by The Netherlands and Belgium is set out with great clarity and historical sensitivity by Christian Weyers (384–93). Rob Rentenaar (299–304) has a most interesting account of the spread of cultivation into the reclaimed moor and fen of the medieval Netherlands, and believes that he can establish a chronology of name-generics, most of which of course have close etymological relatives in English; one is naturally inclined to suggest comparing the linguistic history he describes with that of the English Fenland. Finally, I draw attention to Vibeke Dalberg’s eminently sensible paper (73–78) making a clear distinction between names created as compounds and names whose lexical form is compound but which at the moment of their being applied functioned as single-element (*enleddede* in Danish) names, whether through straightforward application of a compound lexical item (like *Chalk-Pit*) or through metonymy (*Coventry*—as applied to a settlement; originally a tree) or remote transfer (*Botany Bay*) [English examples supplied by the reviewer].

And if you are interested in why Missouri, USA, is known as *The Show-Me State*, Barry Popik and Gerald Leonard Cohen (285–89) have a satisfying story that should kill the mythological alternatives once and for all. But it won’t. Folk-linguistics doesn’t care about evidence.

Volume 3 deals with personal names and names in literature. Not many papers are primarily about names in the British Isles, and I shall mention some others which seem to me to have an interesting bearing on our concerns.

Peter Wilkinson (332–37) reports on part of a project based in Sheffield to study the origin and evolution of given names and surnames in the Sheffield area. Among interesting points that emerge are the fact that the surname system seems to have been well-established in this northern locality by the time of the 1379 poll tax, and that locative surnames are relatively weakly represented

among the poorer classes. The top dogs almost never have occupational or nickname surnames—unsurprisingly, given the importance of specific landholdings (from which they take their names) in defining their status. Wilkinson is very clear about the stimulus given to the surname system by the paucity of given names in use at this period (or rather the overwhelming popularity of just a few). R. T. Price (288–96) uses four criteria to give powerful evidence for the Welsh contribution to the ‘Anglo-Norman’ settlement of Ireland in the early Middle Ages, and is able to show regional variation in its density. David Dorward’s brief general survey of Scottish names in *mac* (113–16) is competently routine, but contains facts not likely to be widely known about such surnames as *MacSporran*. Of some interest to Celticists is likely to be Carmen Leal y Soria’s and J. L. Ramírez Sadaba’s attempt to provide Celtic etymologies for Spanish personal names especially associated with Cantabria (250–54 and 297–301 respectively). There is in fact a whole swatch of papers devoted to personal names in Spain—no less than eleven. Britain and Ireland together could not produce anything like such a conference contribution on an industrial scale, even in their own islands.

Two papers trade heavily on the sound-associations of English names. Herbert Barry III and Aylene S. Harper’s earlier work on the relation between phonetic name-form and biological gender is well known; there they derived a phonetic gender score from the sets of the most popular given names, and here (40–46) they develop a phonetic index of ‘femininity’ which differentiates absolutely the sets of the fifty most popular male and female given names in three English-speaking countries at various times since 1850. They show that there are trends within each sex-category, and that the mean ‘femininity’ of names of both sexes has increased (not quite uninterruptedly) ever since 1925. They associate this finding with other cultural developments; naming is thus indexical of—or simply an integral part of—cultural trends, and phonetic features have stereotypical associations. The latter point is well to the fore in Grant Smith’s study (303–11) of the phonetic ‘comfort factor’ which may persuade those with little interest in ideas to vote for one election candidate rather than another. Smith in effect offers advice about what oratorical tactics might be adopted by candidates with names having particular sound-characteristics. It would be nice to see the claims about the associations of phonetic features tested; at least Barry and Harper have grounded their work in a corpus of names. The same sorts of ideas are utilized by Doreen Gerritzen in her paper on recent first name choices in the Netherlands (140–47); but subjects are simply offered unanalysed concepts such as melodiousness, niceness and appealingness to categorize their reasons for choosing particular names for their babies. (Curiously, no-one working in this area, phonetic correlates of names expressing

biological gender, seems to cite the paper by Cutler, McQueen and Robinson in *Journal of Linguistics*, 26 (1990).)

A very long paper by Patrick Hanks and Kate Hardcastle (164–82) is ostensibly a report on their *Dictionary* of American family names currently in preparation, but it reads rather like a draft of the eventual preface. They are careful about distinguishing the origin of a name from its cultural associations, and they give an extensive account of their methods, illustrated by numerous examples of what they achieve. They say something unnecessarily defensive about not going into extensive philological explanations of surname origins (175); this is a tool for the general reader, not a full-blooded work of etymology. They aim, in effect, to produce a reference work capable of accounting for the origin (in at least an ethnic and cultural sense) of any surname borne by over one hundred American families. I hope that of their consultant Dr Mackelprang will be included. A paper by another of their consultants, Susan Whitebook (328–31), is a quite lightweight piece which illustrates some hair-raising deformations of French surnames in the process of anglicization in a city in Vermont, USA. It should remind those of us who believe in the relatively orderly and regular nature of phonological borrowing just what may really go on when speakers of different languages meet under cultural and bureaucratic pressure.

Eero Kiviniemi (212–17) gives a nice demonstration of the relation between political macro-factors and naming traditions when he relates the rise in popularity of Finnish-language given names to emerging political nationalism and independence in Finland.

Three very different papers which may well prove to have some longer-term importance are the following. Stanley Lieberman (261–66) carefully describes the sociological concept of *birth cohort* and shows how a parent’s membership of a particular (age-)cohort may have an impact on choice of names for children which is separable from the effect of chronological period. There is an oddity, though; a cohort’s attachment to a particular name appears to wane as its members age, but nowhere is it suggested that this might be because a name which is popular with that cohort is likely to be used by its members early in their reproductive life if they are going to use it at all. (Social grouping effects are studied by Enzo Caffarelli (72–77), and may be added to those identified by Lieberman.) Pierre-Henri Billy (53–57) carefully disentangles the spaghetti of terms currently used in (French) anthroponymy and makes proposals for an acceptable terminology. Olaf Jäkel’s contribution (195–203) importantly stresses that some processes involved in surnaming are metonymic, and he distinguishes metonymic surnames from those which identified the original bearer by his profession or ancestry. Among the metonymic—i.e. those which are not directly descriptive but which arise through the use of an attribute as the name—he

includes local names, utensil-names and property-names; his German examples include respectively *Berlin*; *Kohl* 'cabbage' or sometimes 'coal'; and *Dick* 'fat' and *Kahlkopf* 'bald head'. I presume the third category is metonymic for *Jakel* by virtue of the use of an attribute-name as a person-designator, but the author is unclear about whether mentioned compounds such as *Dickmann* 'fat man' are also metonymic when first applied; it appears obvious to me that they should not be regarded as such. Nonetheless, his point that metonymy is a central and neglected category coming to prominence in the current development of so-called cognitive linguistics is well taken.

The literary onomastics papers include some very odd items, as always. Francesco M. Casotti (347–51) deals with names in Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*. How can we take seriously a piece which deals with the etymology of a name, warbles merrily about how appropriate it is, and then says: 'But Dickens was not a scholar' and knew nothing about it (349 and again on 350)? Obviously I am missing something important about how this discipline works. Interpretation depends on the reader's subjective experiences and the knowledge derived from them—this is what the name means for me, the writer. Fine. But so what? When private thoughts and scholarship are equated, it's time for some departments to close. Ines Sobanski (373–78) provides something a bit more substantial in dealing with the allusiveness of G. K. Chesterton's names for and descriptions of characters. Barbara Nykiel-Herbert (366–72) compares strategies for handling personal names in translations of English-language books for non-anglophone South African children, and she writes interestingly about the likely impact of translating the names or not doing so on small readers from different cultures. The collection ends with a rather substantial study by Erika Weber (390–96) of the material trading on place-name folk-etymology in a collection of Saxon folk-tales; she shows that many of the stories contain an element of truth whilst departing from the strict 'documentary' truth.

Like any collection of conference papers ranging so widely and endeavouring to provide a complete record of the conference, this three-volume set defies simple judgements. The reader will find the general and the parochial; the programmatic, the reportative and the synoptic; the complete paper and the undeveloped abstract (some, but not all, of papers published elsewhere); the good, the bad and the ugly. I have made a personal selection with an orientation towards the British Isles. In fact, the European bias of the collection is very strong. Even most of the foreign names given to persons in Korea are European (at least in a cultural sense, if not in a strictly geographical one), to judge by Kwang-Sook Lie's study (III, 255–60).

The physical appearance of these three volumes is acceptable, though occasionally the tables contain slips, and some of the relatively few maps and

diagrams are terrible, mainly through being shot down too small or through having been produced on a photocopier with environmentally damaging carbon emission levels. Some of the papers noticeably contain more spelling and first-language-induced errors than others. But in general, the editor and his Scottish board are to be congratulated on getting such a substantial conference published within two years of its occurrence. We still await ICOS-XX (1999) as I proof-read my belated review (2002), and ICOS-XXI is looming up.

RICHARD COATES

DAVID PARSONS and TANIA STYLES with CAROLE HOUGH, *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (A-Box)*, DAVID PARSONS and TANIA STYLES, *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (Brace-Cæster)*. Centre for English Name Studies: Nottingham, 1997 and 2000. xix + 155 pp., xviii + 177 pp. £12.50 each. (ISBN 0 9525343 5 5, 0 9525343 6 3)

Since 1956, English Place-Name Society editors have enjoyed or endured a love/hate relationship with A. H. Smith's *English Place-Name Elements*. This was a work produced in haste with inadequate checking and proof-reading; and, of course, it predated the major changes in opinion which took place among place-name scholars in the 1960s and 1970s. The entries in Smith's two volumes require constant checking, and this reveals an unacceptable level of error. That said, it has to be admitted that it would be difficult to imagine what our lives would have been like for the last forty-five years without these two volumes. They have been an essential reference work of first resort. The enormous quantity of evidence produced by place-name research has to be organised if it is to have wider functions than that of satisfying curiosity, and the first step in organising the material is a listing of words used in place-name formation with a substantial sample of the names in which they occur. Smith's volumes were the first attempt to provide a comprehensive reference work of this kind. *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (VEPN)* will be very much sounder: its compilers can utilise modern technology, can draw upon a much larger corpus of published material, and are proceeding with much greater care and in regular consultation with county editors. This last is something which was regrettably omitted by Professor Smith.

After speaking censoriously of the haste with which Smith's volumes were compiled, it may seem inappropriate to complain about the slow rate at which the new work is progressing; but it would be a great joy to those of us who are not in a position to take a long view if production could be speeded up somewhat. The first fascicle appeared in 1997; the second, in 2000, only takes us as

far as *cæster*. At this rate it will be many years before the letter *y* is reached.

The purpose of *VEPN* is to make the firmest possible identification of all lexical items which occur in English place-names, and, where appropriate, to give a summary of differing views about their meanings. This is being done so scrupulously that it is difficult for a reviewer to quarrel with any of the articles, even if scholars who have put forward what they regard as firm solutions may sometimes be slightly disappointed to find these treated as one of several possible explanations. The compilers are, however, necessarily selective in the citing of examples, and this means that (as in Smith's volumes) rare elements get more thorough treatment than the commoner ones. There will still be a need for studies of the commoner elements which are based on a more substantial corpus of examples.

The preface to the first fascicle says that when the work is complete it will be issued as a second edition in EPNS hardback format. This will provide an opportunity for the incorporation of the new discoveries and suggestions which the steady progress of the English Place-Name Survey brings to light, and for additions and corrections. All one can say to the scholars producing this work is thank you, and please can we have more as soon as possible. I should like to be around for the second edition.

MARGARET GELLING

PER WIKSTRAND, *Gudarnas Platser. Förkristna sakrala ortnamn i Mälardalskapen*. Acta Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi LXXVII. Swedish Science Press: Uppsala, 2001. 482 pp. SEK 265. (ISSN 0065-0897; ISBN 91 85352 45 4)

Per Wikstrand's penetrating and exhaustive study of pre-Christian sacral place-names in the part of central Sweden that lies around Lake Mälär is naturally of vital interest for all who are interested in the place-names of Scandinavia and the history of the pre-Christian religion there. In this review, however, I shall concentrate on the significance of the book for those who do not read Swedish with ease but for whom a study of these heathen place-names may be able to throw an interesting light on parallel formations in their own countries. In this connection it is worth noting that the study is clearly arranged and has an eleven-page English summary and a full index of the place-names treated.

In the twentieth century it was less easy to get a good overview of the potentially heathen place-names in Sweden than of those in the neighbouring countries of Norway and Denmark. This was in part at least because of a healthy if exaggerated Swedish reaction against earlier tendencies to see heathen symbolism behind even the most mundane place-name elements. The general

tendency was that if a choice was to be made between a sacral interpretation of a name and a non-sacral one, priority should be given to the non-sacral one. On the basis of his painstaking study of 120 potentially sacral names, Per Wikstrand has established four separate criteria that can be used for identifying a pre-Christian sacral name. These are that the name should contain an element whose lexical significance refers directly to religious beliefs or sites or structures with a religious function, that it should be found in a pre-historic name-milieu, that it should be formed according to an accepted semantic pattern for sacral place-names or that it should contain an element that in other recorded names has a clear association with the heathen religion. Bearing these criteria in mind he tries to find the most satisfactory interpretation of the individual names in the light of what is known about the history of the heathen religion and in relation to the settlement context in which the name occurs.

The names which seem most certainly to have had a sacral significance are unsurprisingly those containing the names of heathen gods such as *Oden* and *Tor* or elements that demonstrably denote heathen shrines, e.g. *harg* and *vi*. Although the element *lund* 'grove' does occur in heathen names such as *Torslunda* and *Odenslunda*, it is the gods' names as specifics that make these place-names heathen ones and not the generic itself and there is no reason to look upon a frequently occurring name such as *Lund* as one with a cultic significance.

The way in which Per Wikstrand has arranged his book leads to a good deal of repetition that makes it rather tedious to read from beginning to end but eases the task of anyone searching for information about a particular god or cultic feature; and I consider that the work should be found in the onomastics section of every serious library. I should like here to demonstrate just a few of the interesting topics that are taken up for treatment and which have relevance for the place-names of Britain.

As a point of general interest in connection with the association of sacral place-names with archaeological evidence for pre-Christian religious beliefs and rituals, Wikstrand notes that the evidence derived from archaeological finds in Scandinavia is sometimes supported by the place-name evidence but also challenged by it (p. 24). It is certainly significant that finds of ritual offerings such as the Hjortspring boat and the weapon deposits in Illerup Ådal do not seem to have left any trace on the surrounding place-names and nor do the rock-carving fields, which certainly mark sites where rituals were carried out. This suggests that the religious beliefs reflected in the place-names derive from a later period than those reflected in the weapon offerings and rock-carvings, a theory that is supported by the appearance of some of the same gods and name-types in English place-names, where they cannot antedate the Migration period.

The gods whose names are found in place-names in England are *Wōden* and *Bunor*, cognate with Swedish *Oden* and *Tor* who occur in place-names in Sweden, as well as *Tīw* who does not occur in Swedish place-names but appears in the form *Tyr* in Danish place-names (p. 407). Wikstrand discusses whether *Tyr* might be an alternative name for the god *Ull*, who occurs in place-names in Sweden and Norway but not in Denmark or England. There would certainly seem to be some kind of temporal distinction reflected in the varying distribution patterns of the place-names containing the names of the individual gods over the Germanic area. Wikstrand notes that the cult of *Oden* may have spread at a late date to the North Germanic area and that some of the place-names containing the name of this god give the impression of being based on a popular tradition about a demonised *Oden* figure which developed after the introduction of Christianity (p. 135). It has earlier been suggested by Margaret Gelling that *Grīm*, which is a by-name of *Wōden* (and *Oden*), is used in English place-names as a synonym for the devil, a suggestion that lies behind my own interpretation of many of the Grimstons in England as derogatory names given to places in unfavourable situations (e.g. in *Scandinavian Settlement Names in Yorkshire* (1972), pp. 203–04). The late survival of the cult of *Oden* in Sweden is illustrated by Wikstrand with reference to a man called Ragwald with the by-name *Odinskarl* who confessed at a thing assembly in Stockholm on 27th October 1484 to a number of thefts from churches and to 'having served *Oden* for seven years' (p. 132).

Some support for the occurrence of the word *al* with a sacral significance in the Swedish place-names could have been found by Wikstrand in his discussion of the etymology of the word (pp. 191–94) by reference to the occurrence of cognate Old English *ealh* as a gloss for Latin *delubrum* 'pagan temple' and as the first element of the compound *ealhstede* with the meaning 'heathen temple', while the occurrence of Old English *hof* glossing Latin *sacellum*, *templum*, may perhaps weaken support for Thorsten Andersson's suggestion quoted on p. 253 that the final development of the meaning 'temple' for Scandinavian *hof* may have taken place in Scandinavia, since it is not evidenced on the Continent. It is, however, doubtless the Scandinavian word that lies behind the place-name *Hoff* in Westmorland and the fact that Hoff lies less than three kilometres from the local administrative centre at Appleby suggests that the Viking settlers took over this area while they were still heathens.

I should like to conclude this brief review by congratulating Per Wikstrand most heartily on bringing this major work of scholarship to a successful conclusion and hoping that he will extend his studies to cover the heathen names of the remainder of Sweden.

GILLIAN FELLOWS-JENSEN

EVA NYMAN, *Nordiska ortnamn på -und* (Scandinavian Place-Names in *-und*), *Acta Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi LXX. Studier till en Svensk Ortnamnssatlas utgivna av Thorsten Andersson 16*. Uppsala, 2000. 631 pp. (ISBN 91 85352 36 5)

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Eva Nyman's impressively detailed doctoral thesis deals with Scandinavian place-names in *-und* with the academic rigour which characterises the publications in the Swedish place-name atlas series from Uppsala. Nyman acknowledges that preparation of the material was protracted but the final volume benefits from the time devoted to its preparation. The volume follows the time-honoured pattern of opening with introductory commentary combined with a review of previous research, which sets the scene for the more detailed discussion of individual names, listed alphabetically, to follow thereafter. Alphabetical presentation of the names does make the material immediately accessible and it does have the effect of grouping similar examples of place-names in *-und* together, but it has the disadvantage of crossing national boundaries with bewildering frequency and, for someone who is not totally familiar with the Nordic countries and their names, it is confusing at times. The occasional illustrations and distribution maps scattered throughout the book are very welcome, although some of the smaller maps could have benefited from a little more detail to pinpoint the locations to which they refer. On the other hand, it is possible to locate the names from the very detailed, and generally adjacent, text relating to the individual examples and these are minor quibbles.

The corpus of name material presented by Eva Nyman comes from various place-name publications from Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and care has been taken not to incorporate structures such as *-lund* or *-sund* which might derive from the common generics *-lund* and *-sund* and introduce an element of confusion. All readers will check place-names which have some relevance to their own research areas and for this reviewer, for example, the group of names including Jalundall, Jeløya, Jällunden and Jälund was immediately interesting both because these were included as *-und* names and because of possible parallels with the island of Yell in Shetland. Nyman's conclusion, with regard to Jeløya, is that 'it is attractive to trace *Jalund*, *Jeløya* back to a word with the meaning "noisy"' (my translation) and that is certainly also attractive for Yell, which is separated from the mainland of Shetland by a very dangerous stretch of water where the tide rips through at intervals with incredible noise and force. The division of Yell from the mainland is, in fact, very similar to the narrow channel shown by Nyman on her map of Jeløya on p. 348. The point of this



apparent digression to Shetland is really to emphasise the fundamental importance of having access to comparative Scandinavian material when studying Scandinavian place-names in Britain, and Eva Nyman's volume is a welcome addition to the available sources.

The individual *-und* place-names, such as the *Borgund*-names which are given particularly close attention in Nyman's study, are fascinating in themselves but also interesting is the authoritative overview of their classification which she is able to give, having studied so many of the *-und* names. She does not, in fact, propose any new class of *-und* name but she does confirm how the various known types arrange themselves quantitatively, which is essential to an understanding of how place-names in *-und* function in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. It is possible that there is still more to be done by way of comparison of examples cited from the three Nordic countries, but Nyman has provided the detailed information which will enable scholars from the different countries to pursue cross-border comparisons with ease. It is perhaps not surprising to receive confirmation that the majority of names in *-und* belong to the category of derivatives, whether they are derived from nouns or from verbs. Names derived from nouns are most common of all and in these, Nyman notes, the suffix *-und* generally indicates that the place is characterised by whatever noun is specified in the remaining part of the name. In names derived from verbs, *-und* is an old present participle suffix. Nyman cites the example of Old Norwegian \**Jqsund* f. 'the seething, foaming one', and this type of participial construction with its connotation of ongoing activity must have been particularly appropriate for places where there was moving water.

Nyman's third group of names in *-und* consists of compound names with Old Swedish *\*-unde*, *\*-under* m. 'lake' as their final element. Clearly, this is a distinct generic in its own right and it is fairly restricted in its application, both geographically and semantically, although there is some marginal possibility for confusion with *-und* operating as a participial suffix. Names of this type, having *\*-unde*, *\*-under* as their final element, are limited in distribution to southern Sweden.

Eva Nyman's investigation of Scandinavian place-names in *-und* is essentially a reference book and one which I am very pleased to have on my bookshelves. It also rewards close, consecutive reading and I have already discovered that it is a volume to which I shall return frequently in search of comparative material. *Nordiska ortnamn på -und* should certainly be in the toponymic section of the library in all institutions where Scandinavian place-names are studied.

DOREEN J. WAUGH

PEDER GAMMELTOFT, *The Place-Name Element bólstaðr in the North Atlantic Area* (med dansk resumé). C. A. Reitzels Forlag A/S: Copenhagen, 2001. 349 pp. 300 DK, £25.00, Euro 40 paperback. (ISBN 87 7876 222 7)

Based on his PhD awarded by the Institute for Name Studies, University of Copenhagen, Peder Gammeltoft's book is unique and ground-breaking, as it is the first time an important place-name element in Scotland has been treated in depth throughout the whole international area in which it occurs. *Bólstaðr* developed from a component of a local West Scandinavian place-name type to becoming the most wide-spread Old Norse place-name element in the North Atlantic Viking Age colonies. For completeness' sake Gammeltoft has collected and examined Swedish and Finnish names containing the related East Scandinavian (i.e. Old Swedish) *bolstaper*. This amounts to 551 names which seem to contain Old Norse (ON) *bólstaðr* (461) or Old Swedish *bolstaper* (90). By far the largest number of these place-names date from the Viking Age, which he defines as the period from AD c.800–1100, although a few are more recent. Each name has been subjected to a thorough toponymic analysis, based primarily on the collection of historical forms, and secondarily on local pronunciation, as well as on topographical considerations, such as land quality and distance from the local central place. All these aspects are used to explore and reveal the motives which lie behind the settlers' use of this place-name element, with special emphasis on the types of locality which can have a *bólstaðr*-name attached to them.

Chapter 2 examines the origin of ON *bólstaðr* as a common noun or appellative, pointing out that it is a compound of ON *ból* (neut.) 'farm etc.' and ON *staðr* (masc.) 'place etc.', and that each element is linked to a range of meanings. Thus the original meaning of ON *bólstaðr* is difficult to determine, but it probably means something along the lines of 'a piece of settled and worked ground, a farm'.

There follows the extensive treatment of this element in the place-names of Norway (chapter 3), Scotland (chapter 4) and Iceland and the Faroes (chapter 5). Together these are seen as comprising a closely interrelated corpus, and are dealt with both topographically and theoretically in chapters 6 and 7. Chapter 8 deals with the onomastically distinct area of East Scandinavia (east central Sweden and south-west Finland), but only to achieve a comprehensive collection.

Gammeltoft identifies 108 examples of place-names in Norway containing ON *bólstaðr*, fourteen of which are simplex, while the remaining ninety-four are compound formations. Half of these (forty-seven) contain the specific *mikil* 'big, great', and thirteen *helgi* 'holy'. He would attribute this large number to a phenomenon he describes as 'super-relevance'. This results from the existence

of a critical mass of a certain place-name, which then determines the use of that place-name in new coinings, as well as the form in which it develops. 'In other words naming becomes *imitative*' (p. 226; italics are original).

In **Scotland**, Gammeltoft identifies 239 probable *bólstaðr*-names (and one on the Isle of Man). This is more than twice the number found in Norway and attests to the popularity of this place-name element at the time of the Norse expansion into this area in the ninth century. He discusses the complementary distribution of *bólstaðr* and *ból* in Scotland, as far as these elements can be identified, suggesting that the place-name element *ból* was largely applied to settlements being established within an already existing Picto-Gaelic settlement structure.

When comparing *bólstaðr*-names in Scotland with those in Norway, Gammeltoft concludes that the most important feature is continuity between the two corpora, rather than any great innovation or adaptation in the colony. However, in Norway there is no allusion in the specifics of *bólstaðr*-names to explicitly Christian religious activity, and the relatively large number of names with the specific *helgi* 'holy' probably refer to pagan activity. In Scotland, on the other hand, twenty *bólstaðr*-names contain ON *kirkja* 'church', while three contain *kross* 'cross'. Such a difference is easily explained by reference to the very different conversion histories of Scotland and Norway.

In **Iceland**, Gammeltoft has identified eighteen certain *bólstaðr*-names and a further two possible examples. Fourteen of the certain ones are compounds, all with the specific *breiði* 'broad', giving *breiðabólstaður*. That imitative analogical name formation was at work here is clear. Furthermore there are no known places of this name in Norway but there are ten from Scotland.

As is to be expected from a book written in Scandinavia, a significant part of the book is devoted to theoretical discussion, but always as applied to the element in hand and not indulged in for its own sake. It has posed the author no little problem, however, adapting the sophisticated Scandinavian theoretical terms to English. 'Analogical affix name-formation' is how he describes the important phenomenon whereby onomastic elements understood within a place-name context are used to form place-names but not used as an appellative in the language of coining. An example of this within a different linguistic environment would be Abertay, a modern name formed in the knowledge that *aber* is a typical local place-name element referring to the mouth of a river. The underlying phenomenon is certainly worth recognising and naming. Gammeltoft also isolates 'imitative' naming, prompted by the existence of similar features, and 'associative', by which a name is chosen for commemorative reasons ignoring the meanings of the elements. The key question raised by these various theoretical models is: how do you distinguish between the different processes of

name-giving? Gammeltoft's answer is clearly that if the bulk of a certain type of place-name i.e. one containing a certain generic, such as *bólstaðr*, can be shown to share a group of common topographical and administrative features, then a name, often appearing late in the record, which does not share this group of features, must be suspected of having been named analogically in some way.

In a work covering such a large geographical and international area, and so many different sources, errors and misrepresentations are bound to creep in:

- p. 23 (repeated p. 25): Gammeltoft identifies the Annals of Ulster's Rechru with Rathlin island. However, Rechru here is now generally thought to be Lambay Island off the coast of Dublin.
- p. 28: It is in fact unlikely that Thorfin's power at its height stretched much beyond Orkney, Shetland, Caithness, Sutherland and Ross.
- p. 29: The peace agreement allegedly made between King Magnus and the king of Scotland in the late 1090s was made with King Edgar, not King Malcolm.
- Something strange has happened with Gammeltoft's Sutherland parishes, since he wrongly assigns all but four places to the wrong parish, while the Ross and Cromarty ones do not fare much better. Regarding *bólstaðr*-names in Sutherland, Scrabster by Tongue is in Tongue parish, not Dornoch (p. 145), while Ulbster is in Kildonan parish, not Clyne (p. 157). It is unfortunate that this information is repeated on p. 283 in the following sentence: 'There are a few areas with some farming land [in Sutherland] such as Dornoch and Clyne, and it is telling that the only two examples of *bólstaðr* in Sutherland are found here'.
- In Appendix 2 the mis-assigning is as follows: Arbol is in Tarbat parish ROS, not Tain; Cadboll is in Fearn parish (formerly part of Tarbat) ROS, not Tain, Eldrable is in Kildonan parish SUT, not Clyne, Embo is in Dornoch parish SUT, not Embo, which does not exist as a *quoad civilia* parish; Eriboll is in Durness parish SUT, not Dornoch, Gailable (*sic*, for OS Pathfinder Gailable) is in Kildonan parish SUT, not Clyne, Skelbo is in Dornoch parish, not Embo (see above), and Torbol is in Dornoch parish, not Rogart.

Other small points arising from the gazetteers are:

- \*Bhrannabuis (p. 101) is an actually occurring Gaelic genitive of a no longer extant \*Brannabus; so it would be better listed in the latter form.
- Into the early forms of Scrabster, Tongue parish SUT, an early form of nearby Kirkiboll (Tongue) has been intruded. Gammeltoft's suspicions that this place-name may be an analogical formation (based perhaps on Scrabster by Thurso CAI) are perhaps strengthened by the fact that Scrabster SUT, which seems to contain ON *skári* 'young gull', is not by any stretch of

water, either sea or inland, where young gulls might occur. The earliest form of Scrabster SUT is *Scrabestoun* (1478 RMS ii no. 1404), and as such is worthy of comment as an example of (partial) generic element substitution, probably the result of an unconscious slip by a scribe or copyist more familiar with lowland Scots place-names ending in the generic *-toun* 'farm, estate'.

It is to be regretted that Gammeltoft makes no mention of the important work on Norse place-names in western Scotland done by Andrew Jennings in his (unfortunately unpublished) PhD 'An Historical Study of the Gael and Norse in Western Scotland from c.795 to c.1000' (Edinburgh University, 1994). This would have helped put *bólstaðr*-names in the Hebrides within a wider historical and toponymic context.

The maps are generally helpful and well-drawn, though the captions to the maps of both Norway (Fig. 2) and Scotland (Fig. 3) do not explain what the internal boundaries represent. In the case of Scotland I am able to recognise them as the pre-1975 counties. In the case of Norway, I assume that they are of the *fylker* or 'counties'. As someone with only a rudimentary knowledge of Norwegian administrative geography, I also regret that this opportunity was missed to locate on a map these areas frequently referred to in the text.

It is further credit to the author that he did not write the book in his native language, Danish, but in English. To write about such a complex and technical subject in a foreign language so fluently and clearly is a considerable achievement. Still, it is a pity that the text seems not to have been proof-read by a native English-speaker.

Sometimes Gammeltoft wants to have his *bólstaðr* and eat it too, constantly shifting from hypothesis to hypothesis, depending on how a name or group of names are interpreted. However, this is to a great extent in the nature of the material. There is no doubt that the book could do with a good edit, both from the English-language point of view, and from the point of view of content, since information is sometimes repeated more than is necessary. There is also rather much undigested material; in other words, this is more a PhD thesis than a book. However, the practice in Denmark of publishing theses ensures that pioneering new data and analysis are disseminated as quickly as possible. For this reason alone we should be immensely grateful for this book.

SIMON TAYLOR

Note: for an illustrated article on the element *bólstaðr* based on Gammeltoft's work, and with special reference to Scotland, see S. Taylor, 'Norse in the Islands', *History Scotland*, 2.2 (March/April 2002), 42–45.

#### Also received

At *Nomina* quite a large proportion of the literature we receive for review comes from Scandinavia. This fecundity of publication reflects the degree of respect there for onomastics as an academic discipline, and *Nomina*, though mainly concerned with name studies in Britain and Ireland as our Society's name indicates, would wish to bring this activity to the attention of our readers.

Some of these publications, like our own county surveys, will be part of a series treating place-names area by area. From such, comes *Bustadsnavn i Østfold* by KÅRE HOEL, issued by the Section for Name Studies of the Institute for Scandinavian Studies in the University of Oslo. This began as part of a project to revise Rygh's *Norske Gaardnavne*, published in series between 1897 and 1924. Hoel, who undertook the publication of *Østfold*, died in 1989, leaving a huge handwritten manuscript, and this volume is in fact the fourth; the first and third were edited by Tom Schmidt and the second, as this one, by Margit Harsson. It deals with one of twenty-seven districts of Østfold, and comprises the parishes of Spydeberg, Hovin and Heli. The place-names are dealt with by parish in dictionary form, Chapter 4 with lost names, Chapter 5 with the larger district names, and Chapter 7 lists topographical words, usually appearing as generics in the place-names. Chapter 6 is a kind of interlude, treating by-names and other after-names from eighteenth-century parish registers of Spydeberg. The last chapter collects up special groups, imperative names like *Passopp* 'look out!', transferred names such as *Hamborg*, *Muskau* (all late, the earliest *Oldenburg* 1655) and pejorative names referring to land giving a meagre return. There are indices, bibliography and a map. This covers a small area in detail, but it is important for us to note the project and to see how it is dealt with.

Similarly, from Sveriges Ortnamn, published by the Names Division of the Language and Folklore Institute in Uppsala, comes *Bebyggelsenamn i Leksands kommun*, by ERIK OLOF BERGFORS. This is part 7 of a survey of place-names in the province of Dalarna in central Sweden, dealing with three parishes south of Lake Silja. As one fascicle of a much larger work, it consists of a dictionary of major and minor names, general analysis presumably being reserved for elsewhere, but many individual names which present problems of interpretation are treated in some detail. Of particular interest are those names relating to transhumance (*fäbodnamn*).

Still on the theme of the importance of pasturing beasts in Swedish country life, is *Somergås och Stjärnberg, Studier i Svenska Notkreatursnamn*, by KATHERINE LEIBRING (Acta Academiae Gustavi Adolphi LXIX) Swedish Science Press, Uppsala 2000. The naming of domestic animals is a serious study in Scandinavia—some years ago we reviewed a book on goat-names in Norway.

Drawn from estate and farm inventories going back to the eighteenth century, many of the names are fascinating in themselves. Seemingly incongruously, 115 first elements are found with the *-gås* of the title and various theories are rehearsed as to why '-goose' should be prevalent in the names of cows, finally supporting the proposition that in this instance *gås* is a different term altogether, relating to the production of butter. Such curiosities are intriguing, but the main design of the book is to use the names for studying geographical analysis, changes in agricultural practice, differences in naming of milk-cows and beasts raised for meat or burden, dialect features, orthographic usage in a semi-official medium and the general onomastic principles of names which are freely created rather than chosen from a pre-existing lexicon.

We have also been sent volume 17 of the Norwegian journal *Namn og Nemne*, of which the main contents were two doctoral disputations from Bergen. As the actual theses are not before us, the articles are rather in the nature of reviews, rigorous but by no means hostile, followed by the doctorand's reply. This is a form of literature we are not very familiar with here, but the second must be of particular interest, dealing as it does with a thesis by ÅSE KARI HANSEN on language contact in an old colonial territory, a study of the place-names of the Scandinavian settlement of Normandy, with special stress on the element *-tuit* (Scand. *thveit*). This thesis is obviously an important contribution in an area which has been far less intensely studied than the effects of Scandinavian settlement in England, to which reference is frequently made.

Lastly, returning to the British Isles, although we do not as a rule review subsequent editions unless they contain radical revision, we would like to note that a new edition of W. F. H. NICOLAISEN's *Scottish Place-Names. Their Study and Significance* (John Donald, Edinburgh 2001) has been published. The text is substantially unaltered except for minor revisions, but there is a new Preface and an Additional Bibliography listing publications on Scottish place-names from 1976–2001.

VERONICA SMART

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*Carole Hough*

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**(e) Medieval literary onomastics**

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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

Coates, R. (University of Sussex): theoretical work on the nature of properhood (for presentation at ICOS–XXI).

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).

Padel, O. J. (University of Cambridge): the Bodmin Manumissions (edition, with discussion of the personal names).

### Anthroponymy

Freeman, J. (London): index of personal names in English place-names, based on the volumes of the English Place-Name Survey.

Hough, C. (University of Glasgow): chapter on Scottish surnames for *The Edinburgh Student Companion to Scots*, edited by J. Corbett and others (for publication by Edinburgh UP, 2003).

McClure, P. (University of Hull): article on hypocoristic suffixes in Middle English personal names; etymologies of words derived from personal names (for *Oxford English Dictionary*).

Postles, D. (University of Leicester): the North through its names (Middle English northern anthroponymies); sociolinguistics of medieval non-elites, 1100–1350.

Rowlands, J. B. and S. A. (Aberystwyth): a study of the transition from patronymics to settled surnames throughout Wales, over time, and by place and status group (to form the basis of a much-expanded new edition of *The Surnames of Wales*, first published in 1996).

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); article on names of tenth-century moneyers from Edward the Elder to Edwig, especially the non-Old English names.

### Toponymy

- Coates, R. (University of Sussex): *The Place-Names of Hampshire*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey); continuing work on early Celtic names in 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).
- Cox, B. (Nottingham): *The Place-Names of Leicestershire*, vol. 3 (English Place-Name Survey).
- Cullen, P. (University of Sussex): *The Place-Names of Kent*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey); *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names* (Centre for English Name Studies).
- 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).
- Herefordshire Archaeology Sites and Monuments Record: project to computerise the Herefordshire Field-Name Survey, a printed transcription of the field-names and maps of the nineteenth-century Tithe Award survey of the county published by the Archaeological Research Section of the Woolhope Club, Hereford. Database currently in progress, to be made available via the internet (further details: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/plan\\_archaeology.htm](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/plan_archaeology.htm)).
- 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): (non?)-survival of Romano-British toponymy (article for publication in *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen*); Old English *pur* in place-names (article for publication in *English Studies*); place-

- names of the 'bird hall' type in England and Scotland (paper given at the English Place-Name Society Annual Meeting, July 2002); entry on 'Women in English place-names' for *Women in the Middle Ages. An Encyclopedia*, edited by N. Margolis and K. M. Wilson (Garland).
- Insley, J. (University of Heidelberg): *The Place-Names of Lancashire*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey).
- James, A. G. (Ashbourne): survey of the place-name evidence for the 'Cumbric' language in southern Scotland and northern England (intended outcome: an annotated lexicon of 'Cumbric' and other relevant place-name elements).
- Kitson, P. R. (University of Birmingham): *Guide to Anglo-Saxon Charter Boundaries* (book for publication by the English Place-Name Society).
- Matthews, I. J. (Lancaster): survey of building- and field-names containing 'Throstle', especially 'Throstle Nest' elements (article).
- Nicolaisen, W. F. H. (University of Aberdeen): *Concise Dictionary of Scottish Place-Names* (for publication by the Association of Scottish Literary Studies, 2004); monthly contributions on names to the journal *Leopard*.
- 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*.
- Parsons, D. N. (University of Nottingham): *The Place-Names of Suffolk*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey); *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names* (Centre for English Name Studies); *The Names of Anglo-Saxon Mints* (with Dr J. Carroll, University of Sheffield).
- Russell, P. (Edge Hill): *A Dictionary of South-West Lancashire Place-Names*, including major, minor and field-names of West Derby Hundred (for publication by the English Place-Name Society).
- 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 (for publication by Edinburgh UP, 2003).
- Taylor, S. (University of St Andrews): place-name survey of three Inverness parishes—Kilmorack, Kiltarlity & Convinth, and Kirkhill—to be published in hard copy as well as being available online on the School of History website, University of St Andrews; *The Place-Names of Fife*.
- Watts, V. (University of Durham): *The Place-Names of County Durham*, vols 1 and 2 (English Place-Name Survey).
- Waugh, D. (University of Glasgow): chapter on Orkney place-names for *The Orkney Book*, edited by D. Omand; paper on topographical Orkney place-

names for *New Orkney Antiquarian Journal*; paper on Shetland *nes*-names given at the 14th Viking Congress, Faroes, July 2002, for publication in the *Proceedings*; paper on work in progress for the North Atlantic Place-Names Database Group, Copenhagen, October 2002; continuing work on Shetland place-names, particularly Unst and west Shetland; ongoing efforts to promote place-name research in Scotland as Convener of the Scottish Place-Name Society.

Whaley, D. (University of Newcastle upon Tyne): *Place-Names of the Lake District* (dictionary covering some 3,000 names with substantial introduction, for publication by the English Place-Name Society).

#### **Doctoral Dissertations Completed**

Ullathorne, G. (University of Sheffield): the surnames of High Peak Hundred, Derbyshire (supervised by Prof. D. Hey).