

Basil Megaw (1913–2002)

Basil Richardson Stanley Megaw died on August 22, 2002. He was 89. After graduating BA in 1935 from Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he took the Archaeology and Anthropology Tripos, he was appointed as secretary and assistant director of the Manx Museum, and though promoted to Director in 1940, he was not to take up this post (which also included librarianship of the Manx Museum and National Trust) until 1945, due to service as a scientific officer with RAF Bomber Command.

After over a decade of archaeological and ethnological work in Man, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland, he was appointed the first director of the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh University, then very much a fledgling institution as a centre for the collection, study and dissemination of Scotland's traditional culture. Here he encouraged field collection by such influential scholars as Francis Collinson, Hamish Henderson, Calum Maclean and James Ross. He edited the School's journal *Scottish Studies* from 1964 to 1968, and in no small measure brought the School's work into an international focus, especially developing links with Scandinavia, Germany and Holland.

Basil's outlook was interdisciplinary, and his kindly stimulus provided much inspiration for young scholars who in the 1960s and 1970s were increasingly combating the compartmentalisation that threatens academic life from time to time. His encouragement of place-name studies was evidenced by his regular attendance at conferences of the (then) Council for Name Studies, and it was a great pleasure for your reporter to accompany him to the Society for Name Studies Conference in the Isle of Man in April 2001, where he was, as always, a delightfully stimulating travelling companion, with a fund of amusing anecdotes.

One of his most significant contributions to name studies was a paper read to the eighth conference of the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland, in Edinburgh, 2–5 April 1976. This was later published in *Scottish Studies*, 20 (1976), as 'Norseman and native in the Kingdom of the Isles: a re-assessment of the Manx evidence'. His knowledge of the history, archaeology and culture of the Irish Sea littoral was extensive, and he was generous with it. As a scholar and friend, he will be greatly missed.

IAN A. FRASER

Victor Watts (1938–2002)

With the death of Victor Watts on 20 December 2002, the Society lost one of its most senior figures and a member of the former Council for Name Studies. A specialist in English place-name studies, Victor took over from Kenneth Cameron as Honorary Director of the English Place-Name Survey in 1993, overseeing the publication of ten volumes of the Survey as well as editing *The Place-Names of County Durham*, of which the first volume (of a projected four) was almost complete at the time of his death. Two spin-offs from the latter project were his paper on 'Medieval field-names in two South Durham townships' delivered at the Society's spring conference in Newcastle last year and subsequently published in *Nomina* (25 [2002], 53–64), and his book *A Dictionary of County Durham Place-Names*, also published last year as the third in the 'popular series' of publications by the English Place-Name Society. Both are characterised by his usual meticulous scholarship and clarity of presentation. Indeed, the EPNS 'popular series' was initiated during Victor's term of office as a means of making the findings of the Survey accessible to a wider readership, and has already proved outstandingly successful. Together with two other new ventures begun under his Directorship, the 'extra series' and the 'supplementary series', it was described as 'a distinctive feather in the cap for those currently at the helm of the English Place-Name Society' in a review published in the same month as his death (*Names*, 50 [2002], 299–303).

Some reflection of the breadth of Victor's scholarship is provided by his recent publications on topics as diverse as dialect geography ('Some place-name distributions', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 32 [1999–2000], 53–72), fishery names ('Some Northumbrian fishery names IV: The River Tweed', *Durham Archaeological Journal*, 13 [1997], 89–98), local history ('The place-names of Weardale', *The Bonny Moor Hen*, 10 [1998], 32–39), Middle English poetry ('Middle English *utlete*', in *Names, Places and People*, ed. A. R. Rumble and A. D. Mills [Stamford, 1997], pp. 378–82), Scandinavian settlement ('Northumberland and Durham: the place-name evidence', in *Scandinavian Settlement in Northern Britain*, ed. B. E. Crawford [London, 1995], pp. 206–13), and sixteenth-century place-names ('English place-names in the sixteenth century: the search for identity', in *Sixteenth-Century Identities*, ed. A.

J. Piesse [Manchester, 2000], pp. 34–57). Close studies of individual toponyms include ‘The place-name *Wrdelau*’ (*Durham Archaeological Journal*, 16 [2001], 33–34), a re-examination of evidence relating to the foundation myth of Durham abbey, ‘The place-name *Hindrelac*’ (*Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 15 [1982–83], 3–4), a discussion of the earlier name for the site of Richmond, and ‘The place-name Hexham: a mainly philological approach’ (*Nomina*, 17 [1994], 119–36), a paper originally presented at the Society’s spring conference in 1993. At the same time, he was working on *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*, a major new dictionary intended as a successor to Eilert Ekwall’s *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. As described in ‘A new dictionary of English place-names’ (*Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 26 [1993–94], 7–14), this will cover some 18,500 place-names in current use, drawing on the most up-to-date material from the county volumes and unpublished collections of the English Place-Name Society in order to provide ‘a state-of-the-art account of English place-names and their significance’. Due for publication in November 2003 by Cambridge University Press, the dictionary will represent an authoritative and comprehensive reference tool not only for onomasts but for specialists in many other disciplines. It will stand as a lasting memorial of Victor’s work.

Victor was a modest man whose achievements were considerable but never vaunted by himself. He was a fine and inspiring teacher, as was clear from the paper he gave on ‘Old English and place-names’ at a joint meeting of this Society and Teachers of Old English in Britain and Ireland at Nottingham in November 2000. In addition to being a lecturer in the English Studies Department at the University of Durham since 1962 (and Senior Lecturer from 1974), in 1984 he became Senior Tutor and Vice-Master of Grey College, one of the university’s residential colleges. In 1989 he was appointed Master of Grey College, where he hosted the Society’s spring conference in 1995. He was also Dean of Colleges from 1999–2002. In March 1993 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and in July 2002 he became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

CAROLE HOUGH

JOHN HIGGITT, KATHERINE FORSYTH and DAVID N. PARSONS (eds) *Roman, Runes and Ogham: Medieval Inscriptions in the Insular World and on the Continent*. Shaun Tyas: Donington, 2001. 222 pp. £35.00. (ISBN 1 900289 44 X)

Presented with such a euphonious title—*Roman, Runes and Ogham*—who, with an interest in the subject, could resist reading this compendium of essays on various aspects of medieval inscriptions in the insular world and on the continent? The book, as the introduction acknowledges, ‘grew out of’ an international conference on medieval epigraphy held in St Hilda’s College in Oxford in 1996. The conference itself grew out of the perceived need to bring together scholars working in different, and often entirely separate, fields of medieval epigraphic studies both in the British Isles and elsewhere. This ‘bringing together’ is a current trend in the academic world and one which is long overdue in certain fields of scholarship.

John Higgitt’s ‘Introduction’ very concisely outlines the content of the various contributions. He has done the work of the reviewer in that respect, and I will merely summarise for the benefit of those who do not yet own the book. Inscriptions and classes of inscription represented in the book range from the earliest Middle Ages to the sixteenth century and chapters are grouped according to cultural type, geographical area or period. The following geographical areas are represented: the British Isles, embracing both ‘British’ and ‘Irish’ (also referred to as ‘the Insular world’); Scandinavia; the Continent, particularly in Francia, Bavaria and the areas of Langobardic rule. Higgitt points out that the majority of chapters in the book deal with the inscriptions of the earlier Middle Ages due to heavy concentration on this period among scholars working in the British Isles and, as a result, published corpora exist for this period, while the central and later Middle Ages are less well covered. Plans are now afoot, following this Oxford conference, to create a corpus of medieval inscriptions in England (from 1066 onwards). Such a collection of material would be of inestimable use to subsequent scholars and it is hoped that it will go ahead.

As with all compendia, this is a book which will be selectively used by people with diverse interests in medieval epigraphy. The chapters seem to vary from the very specific, current research project coverage to the more general overview type of coverage arising out of a lifetime’s work, although contributors might disagree with this assessment. The book, with its catchy title, opens with an equally alliterative chapter on ‘Basilicas and Barrows’ in Wales which deals with the Latin memorial stones of Wales. It is followed by another two chapters on the Latin inscriptions in the British West, the last of which, by Mark A.

Handley, concludes with the challenging suggestion that there might be a need 'to alter radically our perception of the extent and nature of Latin culture in early medieval Wales and western Britain'. As a complete newcomer to early medieval Welsh epigraphy, I found his arguments convincing. Those with greater knowledge might disagree but the debate is well worth pursuing.

My own interest is in Scandinavian runic inscriptions in the British Isles and, in particular, in Scotland. Two chapters by Michael P. Barnes and Katherine Holman deal with this topic while others by R. I. Page, T. Spurkland and Espen S. Ore and Anne Haavaldsen respectively discuss runic inscriptions in England, in Scandinavia, and the computerisation of runes. Michael Barnes uses his chapter to add some recently discovered runes to his 1993 survey of runic inscriptions of the British Isles and suggests a revision of the system for designating individual inscriptions which he proposed in that earlier paper. He is *the* authority on runic inscription in the Northern Isles and testament to that is his book, published in 1994, entitled *The Runic Inscriptions of Maeshowe, Orkney*, among other of his publications. His chapter here draws some very interesting conclusions about what can be deduced from the use of Scandinavian runes in those parts of the British Isles where they occur. Katherine Holman's chapter touches on some of the same topics and her thinking is clearly influenced by Barnes or, at least, both have come to similar conclusions.

A thought-provoking chapter is T. Spurkland's 'Scandinavian Medieval Runic Inscriptions—an Interface Between Literacy and Orality'. Spurkland considers both runes and Roman alphabet writing in medieval Scandinavia and draws some conclusions on the ways in which the two writing systems represent different mentalities—the oral and the literate—with both systems displaying aspects of orality and literacy. R. I. Page, likewise, leaves the reader with much to contemplate, with his final 'Warning to the Curious' that all is not necessarily as it seems in the field of runology research. He notes that serendipity also plays a large part in the discovery of runes, a theme which is echoed elsewhere in the volume. Finally, in the section on runes, there is the chapter on computerising rune-forms and one can see the potential benefits of computer technology as an analytical tool. In another part of the book, Jost Gippert's chapter entitled 'A New Edition of the Ogham Inscriptions: The Advantages and Limitations of Computers' also focuses on the use of computers and, while sounding a cautionary note, he points out that there are undoubtedly several ways in which the epigraphist's work will in future be aided by computers.

Inscriptions on tombstones, fragmentary graffiti, inscriptions on late medieval brasses, masons' marks and construction instructions in medieval buildings—all are represented here. There is much to interest the reader and to extend his/her awareness of epigraphy and of the deductions which can be made from the study of inscriptions about medieval people, both male and female,

whose names are preserved for posterity in stone or some other long-lasting material. Elisabeth Okasha's chapter on 'Anglo-Saxon Women: The Evidence from Inscriptions' encapsulates this when she concludes that 'The picture of Anglo-Saxon England that emerges from the inscriptions is of a male world where women played a role, certainly, but a role defined and delimited by men'. This, and all the other chapters in this commendable book, makes for a fascinating read.

DOREEN J. WAUGH

H. S. A. FOX and O. J. PADEL, eds, *The Cornish Lands of the Arundells of Lanherne, Fourteenth to Sixteenth Centuries*, Devon and Cornwall Record Society, New Series 41, Exeter, 2000. xlvii + 279 pp. £20.00. (ISBN 0 901853 41 0)

This is a fine edition of a series of manorial surveys, rentals and extents relating to holdings in the west of Cornwall. It includes an introduction of some hundred and fifty pages tracing the history of the Arundell family and their estate, examining the nature of the documents printed (most of them fifteenth- and sixteenth-century), and exploring the tenurial and social structures that they reflect. The documents themselves, practically all originally in Latin, are rendered in English, though place- and personal names are given throughout in their manuscript spellings. There are excellent indexes of place-names and surnames, compiled by Dr Alan James.

Local historians of Cornwall, and many social and economic historians with a broader focus, will find much of value here. The documents also provide a rich quarry for place-names, field-names and surnames. Since one of the editors, O. J. Padel, is Cornwall's leading name-scholar, we are in very safe hands with this material. There is no introductory section discussing the place-names as such, but there are some interesting snippets (for instance, the Arundells' fourteenth-century arms incorporated a wolf in recognition of the family residence at Trembleath 'farm of the wolf'), and there is valuable discussion of terminology and farming practice which can illuminate the field-names (for instance, in the sixteenth-century documents *park* is the usual word for an enclosed field in both Cornish and English contexts). For further elucidation we eagerly await Dr Padel's forthcoming English Place-Name Survey volumes.

A substantial section of the introduction (pp. cxxiv–cxxxvii) is devoted to an analysis of the surname material. It is shown that many have not yet become hereditary in west Cornwall by the sixteenth century, and that there is in the area a marked preference for toponymic and, especially, patronymic types above occupational names and surnames derived from nicknames. There is detailed

discussion of each type, and particularly of the remarkable two- and three-part surnames that often involve the extended use of patronyms: e.g. Thomas Perowe, father of William Tomperow, father of John William Tomma Perow. This type is well represented in these documents, though it seems not to be common either in east Cornwall or, more surprisingly, in the west Cornwall section of the 1327 Lay Subsidy. It is suggested that, on the one hand, this distribution reflects the relatively informal and demotic nature of the manorial surveys as opposed to the earlier Lay Subsidy; on the other, it may indicate that the two-part patronymic surname 'is distinctive of areas where the Cornish language was still spoken at our period'. Other surname-evidence for contemporary spoken Cornish is limited exactly because the descriptive types are relatively infrequent. There are, however, examples of *Melender* 'miller', *Gweader* 'weaver', and *Goff* 'smith', and, amongst the 'nickname' type, instances include *Byan* 'little', *Scovarn* 'ear' ('big-eared?'), and the wonderful John *Pengwyn* ('white-head').

DAVID N. PARSONS

CAROLE HOUGH and KATHRYN A. LOWE (eds) with a foreword by R. I. PAGE, *Lastworda Betst'. Essays in Memory of Christine E. Fell with her Unpublished Writings*. Shaun Tyas: Donington, 2002. £35.00. (ISBN 1 900289 53 9)

I was delighted to be asked to review this *Denkschrift* for Christine E. Fell. Chris and I both began our academic careers at University College London as postgraduate students of Old Icelandic under Peter Foote and my first publication, a text critical edition of *Hemings þátrr Áslákssonar* in 1962, and Chris's first publication, a text critical edition of *Dunstanus Saga* in 1963, appeared as volumes 3 and 5 respectively in the respected Copenhagen monograph series *Editiones Arnamagnæanæ Series B*. After that, our ways parted. Chris went first to Ripon, then Aberdeen and Leeds, and finally Nottingham, while I stayed the whole time in Copenhagen. Chris taught a wide range of subjects in various English departments, although her research tended to concentrate on historical semantics, while I have been associated with the Institute of Name Research in Copenhagen and consequently have concentrated my efforts on that subject. Nevertheless, we remained good friends and were in regular contact and I have met most of the contributors to the volume. I was touched to see that the final item on Chris's List of Publications is the lecture entitled 'Pedagogy and the Manuscript', printed posthumously in the proceedings of the Fourth International Seminar on *Care and Conservation of Manuscripts*, which was edited by Peter Springborg and myself (1999). Both Chris and I had

returned by devious routes to our starting point, the study of manuscripts.

It is good that the editors of the present publication chose to include Chris's unpublished works. Most of these are the texts of lectures held at various points in her career and her slightly acidic wit shines through all the heavy scholarship involved. She is critical of colleagues both ancient and modern, almost always with very good reason, and there are many anecdotes about the trials and tribulations suffered by women, whether long-haired or key-bearing, Anglo-Saxon or of the present day, at the hands of male academics. She also has some very wise words to say on mistaken views on the status of women in the Anglo-Saxon world (pp. 198–215). I felt slightly offended by her reference to William the Conqueror, one of my heroes as the man at least nominally behind the compilation of *Domesday Book*, that most splendid source for English place-name scholars, as 'William the Bastard and his Norman thugs' (p. 200). A paper that was quite new to me was the one entitled 'Old English *bearmteag*' (pp. 216–18) in which she pokes mild fun at those who have translated this obscure word as 'yeast box' and proposes instead 'lap-box', a parallel to 'hand-bag', sending my thoughts flying first to the finding-place of Oscar Wilde's Ernest and then to that inseparable companion of IT whizz kids, the laptop (-computer), actually referred to by several non-English speakers as a 'labtop'.

Chris Fell's concern with manuscripts and the advisability or even necessity for consulting these is reflected in 'Some Questions of Layout and Legal Manuscripts' (pp. 229–41), while her general interest in the practical side of writing is reflected in the paper with the splendid title 'Wax Tablets of Stone' (pp. 249–63), which is taken from an Old English translation of the Bible.

The first 197 pages of the book are occupied by essays written by Chris's former students and younger colleagues, some of which were presented at a one-day conference held in her honour at Nottingham in 1998, and all the papers reflect aspects of her own wide interests. One of the papers in particular takes over the baton from Chris. In her paper 'Crook-Neb'd Corslets and Other Impedimenta' (pp. 242–48), Chris was comparatively mildly critical of students and even editors, who rely unthinkingly on glossaries in readers or editions or on antiquated dictionaries. She takes her example from the Old English poem *Waldhere*, in which the adjective *geapneb* used of a mailcoat has been translated, apparently without reflection, as 'crook-nibbed' or the like, ever since the discovery of the manuscript of the poem in 1860. Chris suggests very tentatively that the adjective must refer to the ring-protected front of the mailcoat. This paper inspired one of her former students, Tania Styles, who is now employed by the *Oxford English Dictionary*, to produce a linguistic *tour de force* under the title 'Crook-Neb'd Corslets and Barefaced Cheek' (pp. 189–97), in which she discusses with great virtuosity the semantics of OE *neb*, pointing out that it could also be used of the face and of several inanimate objects, as well as with

an implication of 'impudence', hence the 'barefaced cheek' of Styles' humorous essay.

The paper that will undoubtedly be of greatest interest to readers of *Nomina* is Carole Hough's long study of 'Women in English Place-Names' (pp. 41–106), which argues convincingly that there has been a tendency in the volumes of the English Place-Name Society to underestimate the occurrence of feminine personal names and terms denoting women and presents an extremely useful appendix arranged alphabetically according to counties, listing all the feminine personal names which may occur in both major names and minor names. Among the features that she discusses are the difficulty of distinguishing between the masculine personal name *Nunna* and the feminine noun *nunne* 'nun' and the exceptional frequency of occurrence of feminine personal names in *ðryð* in Cheshire. I would, however, differ to some extent from Hough in her assumption that hybrids consisting of a Scandinavian personal name plus OE *tūn* are indicative of the earliest phase of Scandinavian settlement. While this is true of some of these place-names, others are demonstrably young.

Another paper of interest to those whose concern is with place-names is David N. Parsons' penetrating study of 'Old English **lōt*, dialect *loot*, a Salt-Maker's 'Ladle' (pp. 170–88), which involves the interpretation of a number of place-names, while Judith Jesch's 'Old Norse *vikingr*: A Question of Contexts' (pp. 107–21) is a very useful supplement to Chris's own studies on Modern English *Viking*, and Old English *wicing*, both published in 1987.

Some of the papers by Chris's former students clearly reflect the influence of her teaching, for example Paul Cavill's 'Bede and Caedmon's Hymn' (pp. 1–17) with its painstaking attention to detail and well-argued conclusion that the traditional view that Bede paraphrased Caedmon's Hymn is 'more plausible and better aligned with the available evidence' than the suggestion that the Old English version was the result of a back translation of Bede's Latin version. Roberta Dewa's assessment of editors old and new in 'Of Editors and the Old English Poetry of the Exeter Book: A Brief History of Progress' (pp. 18–40) reflects the influence of Chris in its acerbic judgements and cautious conclusion, while Kathryn A. Lowe's "'A Fine and Private Place": *The Wife's Lament*, ll. 33–34, the Translators and the Critics' (pp. 122–43), examines the Old English words for 'grave' and 'bed' and concludes with a splendid appreciation of Chris's career: she 'spent her scholarly life demonstrating that progress in interpretation lies in careful examination of individual words and phrases in their context, rather than in translations' (p. 138).

Finally there is a paper that is something of an outsider, Sam Lucy's 'From Pots to People: Two Hundred Years of Anglo-Saxon Archaeology' (pp. 144–69). The title is undoubtedly a misnomer, for only the first couple of pages are devoted to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and there is little that will

be new to archaeologists in the remaining pages, but for students of the Anglo-Saxon period who are not archaeologists, it is a very useful and clearly presented survey. I would certainly recommend it to students of place-names.

The book concludes with a draft introduction to a book to be entitled *Anglo-Saxon Letters and Letter-Writers* on which Chris was working at the time of her death, with some sample translations (pp. 274–98). Having read these I was left with a terrible sense of loss, not only of a true friend and colleague, but of a scholar who still had so much she wanted and would have been able to give to us. I should like to conclude by resorting to my adopted tongue and saying "Ære være hendes minde!".

GILLIAN FELLOWS-JENSEN

BARBARA E. CRAWFORD (ed.), *The Papar in the North Atlantic. Environment and History*. St John's House Papers No. 10, St Andrews, 2002. 143 pp. £14.00. (ISBN 0 9512573 4 X)

In recent years St Andrews University has run a very successful series of biennial day conferences on themes involving early medieval Scotland, and the papers have subsequently been published in this series; *The Uses of Place-Names*, reviewed in this journal, was one such. The series is resolutely interdisciplinary, and the current publication is not solely a 'place-names' book, but the eponymous place-names are the signposts which have directed attention to the underlying questions. The element was transmitted through Old Norse *papar*, but who were they, and what was their relationship with other populations? Were they priests, monks or hermits, and how did they come to give their name to these places?—mainly in the northern and western isles, though there are four in Iceland and putative instances in Kirkcudbright, the Isle of Man and Cumbria. All examples are listed in the appendix to Aidan Macdonald's review, which forms the first chapter of the book.

As is so often the case with modern scholarship, the volume leaves the reader with more questions than conclusions, as it treats an older and more simplistic view to a fresh scrutiny. A multi-author compilation, with contributions written initially in isolation, there is inevitably some lack of agreement. Several of the papers suggest that far from commemorating hermits fleeing the world, the *papar* places took their names from prosperous communities involved in progressive agriculture, whilst Gudrun Sveinbjarnardottir casts serious doubt whether *papar* were ever physically in Iceland, arguing that the Icelandic written evidence could simply be a borrowing from Dicuil, whilst Dicuil's Thule is not necessarily Iceland. The names she explains as items of toponymic vocabulary brought from the northern isles and the Hebrides.

On the other hand, David Dumville considers that the evidence for an 'ascetic insular' presence in Iceland 'seems ... to be surviving rather well the assaults on its credibility'. Again, since the documentary evidence is sparse, there is a certain amount of repetition in quoting *Landnamabok*, *Historia Norvegiae* and Dicuil. This is not otiose, however, as each writer needs this starting-point to develop his argument.

This is not, then, a resolution of The Problem of the *Papar*. It may well be that the names were given at different times, in different places, in response to difference circumstances. Many of the topics are presented as an interim report on work in progress, or point to areas which require deeper investigation. The debate will certainly continue, and deservedly, as it is central to questions of settlement in the North Atlantic islands and beyond. The book is well illustrated, the landscapes, both black-and-white and colour, often astounding.

VERONICA SMART

SYLVIA LAVERTON, *Shotley Peninsula. The Making of a Unique Suffolk Landscape*. Tempus Publishing Limited: Stroud, 2001. 160 pp. £14.99 (ISBN 0 7524 1937 4)

These days the Shotley Peninsula is usually glimpsed on the way to somewhere else—fleeting from the Orwell Bridge or as a dark brooding mass as the ferry from Esbjerg noses its way into Harwich in the dead of night. Even for many people in Suffolk it is an unknown quantity where even the mobile phones don't always work as I recently discovered on a rain-soaked professional visit to Holbrook.

Sylvia Laverton's achievement is to bring this area to life in her well-rounded study and in the process to dart down countless intriguing historical and onomastic alleyways. The Shotley Peninsula accounts for about half of the Samford Hundred in south-east Suffolk but its uniqueness stems in part from its position between the tidal Orwell and Stour estuaries which give it distinctive geographical definition. The time setting for the book is approximately the First Millennium—late Iron Age to the Norman Conquest—with its sometimes meagre haul of written documentation supplemented generously here with archaeological and place-name evidence and the fruits of many years of field walking.

The author has in mind both the general reader interested in the locality and more specialist constituencies. To a large degree she keeps both on board and her book is a worthy addition to the literature on Suffolk.

Despite the peninsula being 'generally perceived as remote and isolated', it becomes clear that its umbilical cord lay in the direction of the Festland—

underscored by references to the Rhine River System and relatively unfettered contact with the whole of the continental North Sea littoral. I am reminded of Bowen's Atlantic seaways in the far west. The local focus is not lost, however, as we learn that most parishes in the peninsula utilised the local brick earth (a kind of clay) in brick making and the evidence is the frequency of the names Brick Field or Clamp Field. Equally clear is the arable nature of the area—this is not sheep or cattle country.

The opening chapters are a useful introduction for the general reader but could be skipped by the more scholarly. Somewhat contentiously, Sylvia Laverton writes that 'by the end of the fifth century most of Britain was under Anglo-Saxon control'—sure to raise more than a few Celtic hackles and at odds with her local Shotley information that 'no Early Saxon pottery from the period AD 450–650 has been found'. Settlement and control are not always contemporary events.

The 'hidden hand' of Margaret Gelling can clearly be seen in the author's emphasis on the ubiquity and aptness of the area's place-names, but few would wish to quarrel with this. The real meat of the study is in the chapters looking at the archaeological and onomastic evidence for the evolution of settlement. Pragmatism reigns, so that the lack of early Saxon pottery is down to the voracious local ploughsoil. Aerial photography combines with both archaeological and field walking finds to build up the Romano-British evidence, and metal detectors are seen as potential allies rather than always as a threat. Romano-British survival is boldly hinted at in deriving the thirteenth century surname John *atte Wall* as a 'wall' name i.e. native British. Using surname evidence in this way is particularly intriguing, although one hopes that the place-name Beria has no connection with the late unlamented Lavrenti of Stalinist infamy.

One of the most interesting parts of the study opens up the whole question of Danish influence on the peninsula. Shotley is not the most obvious place to go looking for this sort of result, but part of the charm of this book is that it unearths this sort of treasure. The village of Shotley itself turns out to be Kirkton in disguise, with its very own Thorp nearby. Thurketil's Estate was part of the village and nineteen Thurkettles were listed in the 2001 Ipswich telephone directory so the peninsula must be ripe for DNA studies. The uncontracted form of the estate name indicates a likely land grant in the 880s during Guthrum's reign. Stimulated by this sort of approach, I traced eight Holbrooks and thirteen Frestons living in Ipswich at the 1851 Census and a single Woolvester to remind me of Sylvia Laverton's previous work on Woolverstone.

The Danish evidence reminds us of the North Sea influence, and this is further confirmed by Freston parish which 'evolved from Domesday, Fresetuna, Frisetuna, "the estate of the Frisian, Fresa"'. Of course north east Essex is on the other bank of the Stour and not too distant are the place-names Kirkby le

Soken and Thorpe le Soken, probably from the same settlement period as the Shotley names. Migration is not always long distance—in the 1851 Census, nearly 5% of those listed for the Samford Hundred were born in Essex.

All who read this book will I am sure find individual paths to stimulation. Does the place-name Overton point us to the ancestral home of the Civil War Pamphleteer Richard Overton? Sylvia Laverton's sureness of touch brought a smile to my face as she rectified a thousand year old error in Domesday Book (see p. 111). This is a local study of a high order and deserves a place on many a bookshelf.

GRAHAM COLLIS

G. R. ISAAC, *The Antonine Itinerary Land Routes. Place-Names of Ancient Europe and Asia Minor*. CMCS Publications: Aberystwyth, 2002. CD-Rom. £12.00, \$18.00.

The purpose of this CD-Rom is to provide a searchable database of material from the *Antonine Itinerary*. This is accomplished by presenting the data in the form of tables structured in various different ways. Each name form is associated with up to fifteen pieces of information arranged in columns, including manuscript variants, geographical location, longitude and latitude, province, prefixes, first and second lexical elements, and suffixes. The information is then re-sorted alphabetically by individual columns in further table-files. The tables are organised into separate folders for the seven regions of Asia Minor, Balkans, Britannia, Gallia and the Germaniae, Hispania, Italia, and Raetia, Noricum and Pannonia, with an eighth folder combining data from the other seven. Each of the eight folders also contains a file of Comments on the name forms and their etymologies, and there are four additional files listing and discussing lexical elements of secure or possible Celtic origin. Material from the *Antonine Itinerary* is based on the edition by Otto Cuntz (*Itineraria Romana*: Leipzig, 1929), and the etymological discussions and Comments are supported by bibliographical references.

The CD is designed for use in Microsoft Word for PC and Apple Macintosh. The present reviewer, a PC user, experienced no technical problems. The format is not immediately user-friendly, and it takes a little time to familiarise oneself not only with the structure of the tables, but also with the various abbreviations and transliterational conventions. These are fully explained in the six-page Introduction, which this reviewer found it essential to print out for reference. That being the case, it might have been preferable for the Introduction to be published in hard copy as an instruction manual to accompany the CD, thereby also giving potential purchasers a better idea of what to expect.

Intended primarily as a research tool, the CD makes no claim to offer a definitive treatment of the onomastic data. The author emphasises in the Introduction that the linguistic analyses are 'intended as default statements, not as authoritative claims', and is at pains to disarm criticism by explaining:

This work is not a detailed study of every single toponym in the *Antonine Itinerary*. It is rather just a collection of data from that source, arranged in various ways, which can serve as the basis for such a detailed study. What analysis is given is given as a rudimentary introduction to the material, and as a programme for such an analysis. But the analysis is not intended to be, and cannot be, authoritative. Many will find much to disagree with here.

This defensive tone recurs elsewhere, and indeed becomes a little repetitive: 'many will find grounds to disagree with my decisions', 'All who wish to draw completely different conclusions from the material can do so', and so on. It also seems odd that although the CD results from a major research project at the Department of Welsh, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Introduction gives a strong impression of a single scholar working alone. Use of the first person singular pronoun is rife, and statements to the effect that an inability to assign individual names to 'Celtic nor to any other linguistic complex ... will often merely be a symptom of my ignorance of the languages involved', that despite attempts to err on the side of caution when assigning names and elements to Celtic, 'inevitably, in many cases, I have undoubtedly just erred', and finally that any errors to be found in the work 'are, at least, my errors alone', appear deliberately to distance the author from the wider scholarly community. Other factors too suggest that the CD has not been subjected to the rigorous system of peer review customary for books and journal articles. The prose style is sometimes poor, and there are noticeably more typos than would be acceptable in a hard copy publication. The Introduction concludes with a list of abbreviations for primary and secondary sources cited in the etymological discussions and Comments files, but not all appear actually to have been used. For instance, an abbreviation is allocated for M. Gelling and A. Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names* (Stamford, 2000), but this reviewer was unable to trace a single reference to the book.

In sum, *The Antonine Itinerary Land Routes* comprises a potentially useful resource for scholars, but it is clear that much more remains to be done. There are no maps or other graphics, and the lack of more thorough linguistic analysis is a definite drawback. It should therefore be noted that the CD represents a preliminary stage in a much larger enterprise, the five-year project 'The Ancient Celtic Place-Names of Europe and Asia Minor' mentioned above. Under the

direction of Professor Patrick Sims-Williams, the aim of the project as a whole is to provide a searchable database of place-names from ancient sources, with studies of the distribution of linguistically verifiable Celtic toponyms. The CD under review is described in the Introduction as 'an experiment in presentation, an experiment in organisation, and an experiment in analysis'. The experiment has been at least partly successful, and further publications of the project are awaited with interest.

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Acknowledgements for providing information or sending offprints are due to Carole Biggam, Andrew Breeze, Silvio Brendler, Richard Coates, Paul Cullen, Klaus Dietz, Margaret Gelling, David Hey, John Insley, Kay Muhr, Victor Watts and Doreen Waugh.

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): the nature of properhood (Proceedings of ICOS–XXI); chapter on names for the one-volume *Cambridge History of the English Language*; preparation of *Locus focus* vol. 7; special volume of *Onoma* on the theory of names (2006).

Hough, C. (University of Glasgow): preparation of annual bibliographies for *Anglo-Saxon England*, *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, and *Nomina*.

Anthroponymy

McClure, P. (University of Hull): ‘The kinship of *Jack*, II, pet-forms of Middle English personal names with the suffixes *-cus* and *-cok*’ (article for *Nomina*).

Postles, D. (University of Leicester): *The North through its Names: a Medieval Anthroponymy of Northern England*; the meanings of aliases through English time; *An Atlas of English Medieval Anthroponymy*.

Toponymy

Coates, R. (University of Sussex): *The Place-Names of Hampshire*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey); Latin and Irish place-names in England (Proceedings of ICOS–XXI); ongoing work on identifying Celtic etymologies for Romano-British and current place-names; preliminary review of the morphology of English and Scandinavian compound place-names in the Danelaw; etymologies of some Lincolnshire and Sussex place-names.

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 Nottingham): *The Place-Names of Kent*, vol. 1 (English Place-Name Survey); *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names* (Institute for Name Studies).
- Fellows-Jensen, J. (University of Copenhagen): studies of the occurrence and significance of the generics *Scand bý* and *Scand thorp* / OE *throp* and the specific OE *wifel* 'weevil' in place-names in England; problems associated with the dating of the place-names of Norse origin in the Isle of Man; reasons for the absence of pre-Norse names from some areas occupied by the Norse in the Viking period in Man, north-west Normandy and England; the names Thingland and Fingland in north-west England and south-west Scotland.
- Freeman, J. (London): *The Place-Names of Herefordshire*, vol. 1 *The Hundreds of Greytree and Radlow* (English Place-Name Survey).
- Gammeltoft, P. (University of Copenhagen): place-name databases; survey of island-names in the Northern Isles; survey of place-names containing ON *topt* / ODan *toft* in Denmark and Britain; place-name survey of Vester Horne Herred, Jutland.
- Gelling, M. (University of Birmingham): *The Place-Names of Shropshire*, vol. 4 (English Place-Name Survey).
- Hough, C. (University of Glasgow): Waldron in Sussex and *Stonerenne* in Kent (article for *Notes and Queries*); minor names in Kirkpatrick Fleming parish (article for *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*); field-names in 'pinch'; 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).
- Kitson, P. R. (University of Birmingham): *Guide to Anglo-Saxon Charter Boundaries* (English Place-Name Society).
- Laflin, S. (University of Birmingham): Shropshire place-names in *-ford* (further information: www.SueLaflin.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk).
- Muhr, K. (Queen's University Belfast): *Townlands of Dungannon Local Government District* (Dungannon Council); *Place-Names of Northern*

- Ireland, Tyrone*, vol. 1, *Dungannon to the Blackwater*; handlist of family names in the place-names of Northern Ireland; gazetteer of Northern Ireland place-names; Introduction to the place-names of Co. Fermanagh (Fermanagh History and Society; series editor W. Nolan); place-names of Killultagh and the Lough Neagh shore (Festschrift for Ann Hamlin); 'Where did the Brown Bull die?' Táin Bó Cualnge and Co. Down; place-names in the Ulster Cycle part 3 (Uí Néill).
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- Scott, M. (Oxford): Scottish place-names as evidence in historical dictionaries (Proceedings of the Twelfth International Conference on English Historical Linguistics).
- Taylor, S. (University of St Andrews): *The Place-Names of Fife*.
- Waugh, D. (University of Glasgow): coastal topographical names (i.e. *ness*-names) in Shetland and Orkney; village names in the west of Shetland.
- Whaley, D. (University of Newcastle upon Tyne): *Place-Names of the Lake District* (English Place-Name Society); the semantics of *stong*, *stang*.