

Peter Wilkinson (1925–2003)

Peter was well known to members who attended the Society's conferences. They will remember in particular the colourful distribution maps of surnames that he brought along in his later years, showing the different spread of the Wilkinsons compared with the Williamsons or the Wilsons or the striking geographical distributions of names derived from the same occupation, such as Walker, Fuller or Tooker. These maps came from of a long interest in genealogy, a subject that he taught in a succession of extramural classes, and from his prominent role in an informal group at the University of Sheffield who are working on the history of local surnames.

Many members who met him at conferences will not have realised that during his working life Peter was a geologist. He joined the Geology Department at the University of Sheffield in 1946 and retired as senior lecturer in 1990. The highlights of his career were the mapping of Kilimanjaro and later Meru. He was a man with very wide interests, whose library contained books from virtually every discipline. He was something of an institution in the Sheffield music scene, where the Lindsay String Quartet recently dedicated a performance to his memory. Our sympathies go to his wife Eva, who usually accompanied him at the Society's meetings.

DAVID HEY

REVIEWS

VICTOR WATTS (ed.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004. lxiv + 713 pp. £175, \$250. (ISBN 0 521 36209 1)

Intended as a replacement for Eilert Ekwall's *A Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edn 1960), *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* is a major new reference work based on the collections of the English Place-Name Society (EPNS). It differs significantly in scope from its predecessor, since whereas Ekwall was concerned mainly with names recorded before about 1500, the focus here is on those in contemporary use, covering names in England which appear in the 1983 edition of the *Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Great Britain*. Although it is disappointing that this results in the exclusion of many names of particular historical or linguistic interest, the Preface makes a strong case for the importance of recent toponymy such as the names given to new towns. Entries range in length from a couple of lines to a column or more, and typically include the modern form of the place-name, location, translation, selection of historical spellings, etymology, discussion, pronunciation (where available from an EPNS volume), and references to scholarly publications. Preliminary material comprises a nine-page Preface by the editor, a Publishers' note, a guide to the format of entries, a list of abbreviations, a glossary of common elements, twelve distribution maps and a bibliography.

The dictionary has been long in the making, being first mooted at the spring conference of this Society (then the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland) in 1985. As explained in the Preface, it began as a collaborative venture by Victor Watts, Oliver Padel and Alexander Rumble; and although the latter two subsequently withdrew from the editorial team, the volume also benefits from the involvement of John Insley as Assistant Editor and Margaret Gelling as Advisory Editor. While many of the entries are based on published scholarship, others include historical spellings from unpublished collections held by EPNS, making available material previously inaccessible to scholars. Entries for Hampshire place-names, for instance, are informed by spellings from Gover's unpublished typescript of 1958, entries for Staffordshire place-names draw on Horovitz's manuscript collection as well as an unpublished typescript for the Survey of the place-names of Staffordshire, and use is also made of material from doctoral theses such as those by Cox (Leicestershire and Rutland) and Cullen (Kent).