Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

Essay Prize

- 1. A prize of £100 will be awarded annually for the best essay on any topic relating to the place-names and/or personal names of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Man or the Channel Islands.
- 2. Submissions are invited from all students and other researchers. The prize will normally be awarded to those who have not previously had work in onomastics published.
- 3. Essays should be about 5,000 words in length.
- 4. Essays should in some way make an original contribution to the subject.
- 5. Two copies of the essay should be submitted in clear typescript, double-spaced, and including a bibliography of source material used and of books and authors cited.
- 6. Entries will be judged by a panel appointed by the President of the Society, and may be considered for publication in *Nomina*.
- 7. Entries must be submitted by 31 August each year. Provided an essay of sufficient merit is forthcoming, the winner will be announced at the AGM the following year.

Entries should be sent to:

Miss J. Scherr, Hon. Secretary, Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, c/o Medical Library, School of Medical Science, University of Bristol, University Walk, Bristol BS8 1TD Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

Fifteenth Annual Study Conference: Bristol 2006

The fifteenth annual study conference of the Society for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Burwalls conference centre of the University of Bristol from 7 to 10 April 2006. The programme was organized by the Society's Secretary, Jennifer Scherr. The opening lecture, by Dr. Michael Costen (Bristol) on 'Early settlement in North Somerset', served as usual to set place-names in the local landscape; unusually well in this year, since the house was within the *burhweallas* of one of a group of three hillforts facing one another beside and across the Clifton Gorge.

Professor Diana Whaley (Newcastle) spoke on 'Hesitation phenomena in the North' exemplified in reduction of names in -hām and -ing(a)hām there. She diagnosed it as having caused two converse errors in some place-name scholarship, with names really in dative plural -um counted as -hām names, and some of the latter seen as names in hamm, which further north than Frodsham, Cheshire, probably don't exist. John Baker (Nottingham) presented work of the Anglo-Saxon Civil Defence(s) Project on 'Place-names and Anglo-Saxon defensive organization south of the Humber'. Dr. Carole Hough (Glasgow) spoke on 'Commonplace place-names'. Some scholars are disposed to reject interpretations of place-names not uniquely distinguishing a place from all its neighbours. Rather common types of name like 'Fishbourne' make that obviously wrong-headed; she discussed how such names should be characterized, being inclined to adopt a Slovak theorist's view of them as 'prototypical'.

Joy Jenkyns and Peter Stokes (UCL) showed how colourfully manuscripts and computers can come together in 'The Language of Landscape: reading the Anglo-Saxon countryside (LangScape) project'. 'Essex place-names: a database at work' joined computers with landscape photography for Dr. James Kemble (Ingatestone) to expound historical implications of burial-mounds many of which no longer exist. Richard Morgan (Glamorgan Record Office) addressed 'Some placenames of Gwent', illustrating historical interaction of Welsh and Eng-

lish and taking an avowedly controversial view of the county name itself.

Dr. John Insley (Heidelberg) treated 'OE wealh: some semantic issues' involving other dealings of Englishmen with Welshmen. He showed that the sense 'slave' for wealh was never general Old English, finding cause to think its development in West Saxon was bound up with the conquest of Devon. Ellen Bramwell (Glasgow) turned to 'unofficial naming in North Uist, Western Isles'. Nearly a third of people there are surnamed Macdonald, and a good quarter of men are called Donald, so it was not all that surprising that more than three-quarters of adults had one or more of what we can call loosely nicknames. Even people like her own family whose formal names stood out were subject to (not to say victims of) this tendency. 'Some Irish surnames of Co. Wexford in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries' enabled Dr. Conchubhar Ó Crualaoich (Dublin) to follow that with one fairly common appellation meaning 'man without a name'.

Next came two papers on what continental colleagues of the chairman, Richard Coates, would have us call standardly hodonymy and oikonymy. Jennifer Scherr (Bristol) revisited childhood haunts in 'The English street-names of Gibraltar', from Bleak House Road via Jumper's Bastion to Governor's Lane. Local Spanish patois can preserve versions of older English names, thus in the 1890s Library Ramp was Cuesta del Ball-Alley, Flat Bastion Road Cuesta de Mr. Bourne. Dr. Chris Lewis (Inst. for Hist. Research) spoke on 'Naming paradise: suburban house-names in seaside Sussex' mainly between the two World Wars. He justified his title with Valhalla and Asgard among others.

Dr. Oliver Padel (Liskeard) analysed 'Personal names in the Bodmin manumissions', freed serfs mainly Cornish-named, priestly witnesses often like the nobility Old English. Some individuals had names in both languages. Ancient ceremonials were followed by celebrations more immediate in space and time. Most of the conference-goers sought a suitable eminence on the rim of the gorge (at what local authorities deemed a safe distance) to watch a firework display by and on the Clifton Suspension Bridge for the bicentenary of its engineer Isambard Kingdom BruneI. We then had to talk our way through a police cordon to get back into Burwalls.

The most conspicuous piece of business in the Sunday morning's AGM was unfinished, the need for a new editor of *Nomina* when the present one leaves the post shortly. After it Dr. Margaret Scott (Glasgow) spoke on 'Scots and English historical lexis as seen through the onomasticon', amplifying and antedating dictionaries on more or less industrial compounds like *brewlands*. Dr. Kay Muhr (Belfast) sampled 'Place-names on Richard Bartlett's maps of Ulster c.1602), with extracts from the maps in the enjoyable semi-pictorial mode of that age and from the surveyor's rather too exciting biography. Professor Richard Webber used a postcode-statistical approach to 'Understanding migration from the analysis of personal names—case examples from Cornwall and Devon'. The afternoon excursion, guided by Michael Costen, went via Congresbury church and the former lake of Meare to Glastonbury, where most people were content to enjoy the abbey or even town but an energetic minority ascended the Tor.

The final paper was by Professor Richard Coates (Sussex) on 'Selfexplanatory place-names', returning to those discussed by Carole Hough, though he cast his net a good deal wider than that. He claimed that names ought to be 'retrodictable', predictable with hindsight, which may well be true with restrictions; as often with abstract theories, the real interest of the argument would lie in clarifying what the restrictions are. But as theoreticians whatever their subject too often do, he both extrapolated into and argued from abstractions so thoroughgoing as to be quite untenable. Extrapolation produced a doctrine he called 'uninominality' or 'mononomasticity' [rectius 'mononomasy'], that places have, or should have, only one name. The absolutely false assumption on which this is based is that to people without exception at the place and time when a name was given, the thing named had a single most important feature (and for good measure, a name could only be truly self-explanatory if we had independent means of knowing what that was). But in the real world most groups of people most of the time are simply not as uniform as that; and dissenters as well as the orthodoxly minded may give names that stick. So though in some ways the conference's most stimulating paper, this was in some ways also the least successful.

P.R.K.

(advertisement)

The Scottish Place-Name Society Comann Ainmean-Aite na h-Alba

The Scottish Place-Name Society was set up in 1996 and has over 300 members in Scotland and abroad. Some of the members are full-time academics working in various aspects of place-names, archaeology, history or language. But the bulk of the membership is composed of people from all walks of life who find place-names a fascinating hobby or interest. Our conferences and newsletters always contain a fine blend of contributions from academics and amateurs. We see this as one of the Society's strengths.

The subscription is £5.00 per financial year (April–March). Members of the Society are entitled to:

- our twice-yearly newsletter, which contains resumés of conference items, books reviews, research in progress, and all new developments in the field
- attendance at our spring AGM with full voting rights, and at the conference attached to the AGM and the autumn conference: these two conferences have been held all over the country
- the opportunity to work with the Society in exciting new developments such as the Scottish place-name database

Further information can be sought from either of the following:

Scottish Place-Name Society c/o Celtic and Scottish Studies University of Edinburgh 27 George Square Edinburgh EH8 9LD

Mr Peter Drummond Convener, SPNS 8 Academy Place Coatbridge ML5 3AX

Or visit the Society's website at: http://www.st-and.ac.uk/institutes/sassi/spns

MARY HIGHAM (1935–2005)

Dr Mary Higham, the first Membership Secretary and Treasurer of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, died on 24 November 2005, aged 70. Mary, a Lancashire woman born and bred, was a geographer and teacher by training, and widely-known as a very active and successful adult education lecturer and writer. She was also, most recently, a key member of the group collecting forms for the English Place-Name Society's county survey of Lancashire. Her interests went beyond the local, but her focus was always the medieval and local history, geography and landscape of Lancashire and the north-west, and how this was reflected in, and illuminated by, the study of placenames.

The very first issue of *Nomina* (1977) records Mary's research interest at the time as the element **erg**; and she was thereafter a regular speaker at national and local conferences, and the author of many papers on important topics such as estate boundaries, and place-name evidence for gardens, roads, the linen industry, and quirky and unusual subjects which caught her attention (beekeepers, harpers). Her very last publication in *Nomina* 28 (2005) is a review of works by Alexander McCall Smith, which amused her for their gently humorous descriptions of scholars attending philological conferences!

Mary is greatly missed by a wide community of friends and colleagues: not least by everyone who met her at the annual SNSBI conferences, and by the wider membership who knew her from regular mailings or by personal correspondence, but above all by the officers and ordinary members with whom she worked on our Society's executive Committee for over a decade.

Indeed, the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland owes a very significant debt to Mary Higham, both in her official capacity, and also for the many no less vital touches "behind the scenes" by which she, together with her husband Eric, helped to form and foster the ethos of the new Society and its smooth running. It is no exaggeration to say that our Society owes its present flourishing existence, and its charitable status, to Mary's careful stewardship of its finances and her

nurturing of the membership list. From the 44 members of the old Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland, who made up the first membership list of the Society, numbers grew, through her friendship and encouragement, to over 200 in 2002, when Mary finally relinquished office.

In 1990, I recorded, in the first Minutes that I took as Secretary to the former Council, that the Chairman, Richard McKinley, welcomed Mary Higham as a newly-elected member. These were busy times for the Council, which was then just beginning the process of reconstitution as an open Society. Together with Richard McKinley and others, Mary was to play a very full part in achieving this aim, and in building up a thriving, loyal body of members of the new Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland.

At this same meeting in Ripon in 1990, Mary Higham (and her friend and colleague Mary Atkin) offered to host a weekend conference at Alston Hall, Preston, in the spring of 1993. Many of us have happy memories of that gathering, not least of Mary and Eric dashing home to gather all the towels they could find, as we suddenly discovered that the Hall would not be supplying these for guests! This act (indeed "double-act") was a typical example of Mary's and Eric's pragmatic, good-humoured, self-effacing approach to sorting out problems.

Mary had been elected Membership Secretary, taking over from Ian Fraser, at the first Annual General Meeting of the new Society, in Belfast in 1992. The following year, she volunteered to take on the additional role of Treasurer from Ian. Handling accounts is not everyone's cup of tea, but here again Mary showed her practical enthusiasm for tackling a responsibility viewed with some trepidation by most of the rest of the membership. Over the years, Mary proved her capabilities, and as a result the Society's accounts have been on such a stable footing that we have not had to increase membership fees since the launch of the Society in 1991. Committee meetings throughout Mary's terms of office regularly recorded the Society's warm thanks for her thorough, expert and clear handling of a complex undertaking. We were continually grateful that she was willing to be re-elected, until, finally, and reluctantly, severe ill-health made this an impossibility.

Mary was always particularly pleased to welcome new and young members to our conferences. Improved finances meant that the Society was able to introduce regular bursaries for student participants. These were partly paid for by donations fostered by Mary's close relationships with corresponding members. It was also possible to increase the amount available for the Essay Prize, another encouragement to new scholars. Amongst other significant changes set in motion by Mary were the regular autumn meetings of the Committee (attached to a day event for members whenever possible); arrangements with Dr Shaun Tyas (Paul Watkins Publishing) for the storage and sales of back issues of Nomina; the first web-site for the Society (designed and maintained by her son David), bringing new members and enquiries; and payment in advance of conference fees, which streamlined administration and financial management. Most importantly, Mary's was a welcome face at the conference registration desk, and old-timers would look out for their lapel badge-often re-used (sometimes wittily abused)-and be reminded to return it to Mary (and to renew their subscription before leaving the conference)!

In 1998, Eric had broached the idea that the Society experiment with hotel accommodation—and it was Mary who suggested we try a hotel on the Isle of Man for 2001. This plan, enabling us to meet in a non-University environment, went ahead, with Mary's careful negotiation of a package deal with travel agents and a 4-star hotel. In the end, it was a subdued gathering, the success of which Mary was cruelly forced to miss through sudden hospitalization.

When she had handed on all Society responsibilities, we were very pleased to welcome her back to the Shetland conference at Lerwick in April 2003. At that Annual General Meeting, members were unanimous in approving honorary life membership for Mary and for Eric, in recognition of their fundamental and particular contributions to the life of the Society. Many of us, not least myself, owe Mary a great deal for her patient support, advice and encouragement. To the end, she was driven by an indomitable spirit, a down-to-earth approach to work, unfailing good sense and an ability to see the funny side of life.

Website

The website of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland is to be found at:

http://www.snsbi.org.uk

Contents include:

- General Information
- Membership
- Forthcoming Events
- Recent Events
- Links to Other Societies
- Nomina Contents List
- Work in Progress

Members of the Society are invited to submit items for inclusion to: SueLaflin@blueyonder.co.uk

REVIEWS

DAVID N. PARSONS, *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (ceafor—cock-pit)*. English Place-Name Society, Nottingham, 2004. xx + 164 pp. £10.00 to EPNS members; £12.50 to non-members. Paperback (ISBN 0904889 74 2)

This welcome addition to *VEPN* is full of interesting material. For those of us who are slogging away at our appointed sections of the Survey of English Place-Names, it provides welcome evidence that our labours are adding to the known vocabulary of Old and Middle English. The lists of field-names, which take up so much space in modern county volumes and consume so much of our time, are being carefully quarried by *VEPN* compilers. I was pleased to see some Shropshire names, like *Knurleyok* and *Mouknop*, included (under *cnearr*, *cnæp*). These occasional treasures are listed in county volumes among a mass of less interesting items, and only diligent searching of this kind can rescue them from oblivion.

As in previous fascicles, the quantity of minor-name and field-name material is large in proportion to that which is evidenced in 'major' names. There are long discussions of a few common settlement-name generics, like cirice, clif, and of recurring major-name qualifiers, particularly ceorl, cild, cniht, but these are separated by many pages devoted to the identification of terms which occur much less frequently. Many of the discussions of rarer terms are very helpful; these can be difficult to distinguish from similar terms and from personal names, and their semantic origins are not always clear. The study of various coc(c), $c\bar{o}c$ terms with which the fascicle concludes is extremely helpful, and other articles are useful in clarifying the evidence for and against terms like *ceg, cimb, *chump. There are, however, entries for some terms which barely qualify for inclusion. The words celidoine, celle, coach could perhaps be considered as marginal; by these standards any word could become a recognised place-name element by occurring once or twice in field-names.

The compilers of this series are pursuing a moving target. Each new county volume may contain evidence which could either validate or contradict conclusions formed from that in earlier Surveys; and another hazard is presented by the current trend in place-name revision for the detailed examination of individual names and elements, as opposed to reconsideration of the historical bearing of place-name evidence. Carole Hough's paper on cild, which suggests a meaning 'young animal' rather than 'young person',

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appeared in *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 36 in the same year as the fascicle under review, so neither the suggested etymology nor the comprehensive assemblage of material was available when the *VEPN* article on this word was in preparation.

The outdating of *VEPN* articles by material in EPNS county volumes is illustrated by the discussion of *Clem*-, *Clam*- in the present fascicle. This is already out of date because of material assembled for the forthcoming Part 5 of the Shropshire Survey.

A group of field-names of which the commonest is Clemley Park had previously been noted in Derbyshire and Cheshire, and had been discussed by Cameron and Dodgson. In the Derbyshire Survey, Cameron did not comment on Clemley Park in Little Longstone (p. 142), but on p. 759 he suggested that Clam Park in Staveley had an infertility sense, presumably because he associated it with the verb *clem* 'to starve'. Dodgson, however, in a longer discussion of a number of such names in Part 3 of the Cheshire Survey (p. 47), suggested a derivation from an OE **clæme* 'muddy place', from *clām*, modern *cloam*; and 'muddy place' was given for Clemley Park and associated *Clem*-names by John Field in *A History of English Field-Names*, p. 39. This has led to the inclusion of the group of names in the article on *clām* 'clay, mud', in *VEPN*. This placing creates a bias towards the Dodgson suggestion, although the discussion shows that Dr Parsons is fully aware of the arguments in favour of the 'infertility' meaning.

The Cameron suggestion is, in fact, fully vindicated by field-name evidence now coming to light in north Shropshire, where these names are very common, and where contexts ascertainable from Tithe Awards point clearly to infertility. In the light of this evidence it seems clear that Clemhunger and similar names, noted in Cheshire but not yet in Shropshire, have the same significance.

The demonstration that *Clem*- in field-names alludes to starvation does not, of course, explain the addition of *-ley* and *Park*. For the moment it seems as if anybody's guess is as good as anyone else's about this. However that is explained, Clemley Park is a notable member of a small corpus of minorname and field-name terms which were understood over groups of counties in the mid-nineteenth century, but which never appeared in written sources and so were missed by dictionaries. They presumably did not survive long enough to get into the *English Dialect Dictionary*. Another notable example is Puppies Parlour, discussed in *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 22, which was known in Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire

and Worcestershire. More widespread instances are Mount Skippet and the earlier-recorded Dimmingsdale.

The placing (or misplacing) of *Clem*- names under *clām* in *VEPN* raises the question of how other recurrent names which are not perfectly understood should be incorporated into this series. Another name, Buckstone or Buxton, which occurs several times in Cheshire and Shropshire, is treated in the second fascicle of *VEPN* under *bucca* 'male deer', although it is acknowledged in the article that this is not likely to be the first element in all the examples. Other suggestions are noted, but it might have been better to give such names articles to themselves, perhaps under "buck-stone ModE" or "Clemley Park, field-name".

If drafts for fascicles could be circulated to county editors, this might lead to the incorporation of material not yet in print and of additional examples of some items. If I had seen the *clēowe* article in draft, I would have suggested a reference to Cley Hill in Wiltshire, which looks like a second example (besides Clee Hill, Shropshire) of the proposed variant **clēo*. This is noted in *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*. In Part 5 of the Shropshire Survey, forms will be provided for Chirbury in Hodnet which show that it was earlier *Ches(e)bury*, and this would have been useful as additional evidence for **ceos* as a variant of **cis* 'gravel'.

The fascicles of *VEPN* are magnificently inclusive, but the material being analysed and classified is so voluminous that a few things can be expected to slip through the net.

MARGARET GELLING

BARRIE COX, *The Place-Names of Leicestershire*, Part 3 *East Goscote Hundred*, EPNS vol. 81. English Place-Name Society, Nottingham, 2004. xxx + 373 pp. £35.00 to EPNS members; £40.00 to non-members. (ISBN 0 904889 68 8)

Barrie Cox, Karl Inge Sandred and I are the three EPNS editors currently labouring on the treadmill to produce regular county volumes for the Survey of English Place-Names. It is therefore from a position of sympathy and understanding that I offer Professor Cox my congratulations on the completion of Part 3 of the survey of Leicestershire. Part 1 (1998) dealt with the City of Leicester, and Parts 2 and 3 cover areas in the north east of the county. Each volume contains an index and a list of elements. The provision

of full indices rather than lists of parishes began with the first Lincolnshire volume in 1985 and has been followed since. This is essential if the material put into print is to be accessible during the long years in which each county survey is brought to completion. The provision of elements lists, on the other hand, is an innovation by Professor Cox. These sections, which constitute an analysis of the material, are of great interest and value, and I regret that I am not providing them for the Shropshire volumes. The reason is that I feel obliged to press on with the task of editing and presenting as much as I can of the material collected over the last forty-five years without pausing to analyse it, as this can, if necessary, be done by someone other than the editor. I hope that Professor Cox will be able to furnish these lists for each of his volumes.

An omission which is to be regretted is the absence of National Grid references for settlement-names. A number of the volumes published since 1960 include these, and they make it easier to study the material in conjunction with Ordnance Survey maps.

Many pages of *Leicestershire 3* are devoted to alphabetically arranged lists of field-names for each township or parish. Cossington, for example, has eight pages of these, mostly from manuscript sources, and even when the mass of material can be broken up by treatment under townships the lists may still run to five or six pages of small print. It is the inclusion of this quantity of field-name material which has turned each county into a life's work for a single scholar.

Field-name material is of value for lexicographical purposes, for dialect studies, for farming history, and, of course, for all aspects of local history. In Leicestershire it is also important for the evaluation of the extent of Norse linguistic influence. The potential of these lists for students of all these subjects has hardly begun to be explored. It is good that we are making them available, but it is a truly formidable task to compile them for every administrative unit in a county, and to give at least a moment's thought to the etymology and significance of each one.

One of the many interesting points to be brought to light by the presentation of field-name material in county volumes is the existence of terms which must have been understood and widely used by farming people into the nineteenth century, but which never found their way into dictionaries. This point is discussed, with examples, in the review of *The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (ceafor—cock-pit)* in this volume. *Leicestershire 3* has three instances of Dimmings Dale, previously noted in several north-east-midland counties. (Examples in Devon and Berkshire are likely to be trans-

ferred names rather than genuine outliers.) The instance in Frisby on the Wreake (p. 82) was still in use in 1969, so can be located on the ground, and Professor Cox gives a splendid topographical account which, he says, "clears up the long-standing problem of the interpretation of this common placename".

This is a rich collection of material, and we must be grateful for the dedication which has resulted in its publication.

Professor Cox's Preface acknowledges Dr Paul Cavill's "meticulous application and patience in preparing for publication the camera-ready copy of each completed volume". Dr Cavill is indeed the lynch-pin in this enterprise.

MARGARET GELLING

PATRICK McKAY, The Place-Names of Northern Ireland, vol. 8 County Fermanagh 1, Lisnaskea and District: the Parish of Aghalurcher. Cló Ollscoil na Banrióna, Belfast, 2004. xxi + 260 pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 85389 869 3)

This successful and much-lauded series of volumes on the place-names of Northern Ireland continues with the publication of the first volume on County Fermanagh. This originally consisted of eight baronies, and the present study concentrates on that of Magherastephana in the eastern part of the county, although a number of townlands in the barony of Clogher, to the north-east in Co. Tyrone, are also covered. As with all volumes produced by the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project of the Department of Irish and Celtic Studies at Queen's University, Belfast, there is a short section describing the history of place-name study in Ireland, methodology, spelling and pronunciation, sources and guidance on how to use the entire series. This is followed by a brief introduction to County Fermanagh and its history, after which the barony name and the major parish Aghalurcher are comprehensively analysed, with early forms listed and local pronunciations provided.

The townland names are then treated, in alphabetical order (pp. 9–181) and 'Other Names' in a short section (pp. 182–92) which nevertheless includes the important *Lough Erne* for which we have an early form dated '3751' which indicates the year of the world in the *Annals of the Four Masters*. Those parish townlands located in Co. Tyrone are surveyed separately (pp.193–205). The appendices include sections on grammar relevant to

place-names, land units, ecclesiastical administrative divisions, tribal and family names. There is a substantial bibliography and a useful glossary of technical terms. A map of the townlands surveyed is supplied inside the back cover.

Because of the nature of the townland system, it is a feature of the placenames of these settlements that the earliest documentary references seldom pre-date 1660. The majority of them are recorded in the Patent Rolls of James I (1620), and contemporary sources, although a substantial number first appear in Ordnance Survey Name Books from the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

The process of derivation is complicated by the Anglicisation of the orthography, since some 95% of the names are Irish, and remarkably few, such as *Millwood*, *Littlehill* and *Stone Park* are entirely English. Nevertheless, the bulk of these townlands contain descriptive terms, and toponyms such as *carraig* 'rock', *cúil* 'nook', *droim* 'ridge', *coillidh* 'wood' and *doire* 'oak wood' are common in the corpus. Your reviewer is strongly reminded of the parallels here with Argyll, and indeed most of South-West Scotland. Most of the Irish elements in the Fermanagh townlands have their direct counterparts in places like Kintyre, Wigtownshire and South Ayrshire. It was particularly satisfying to find names like *Edergole* (p. 101), 'place between a fork', and *Ederacurragh* (p. 100) 'place between two marches or moors', where *eadar* 'between' is a rare Scottish Gaelic term which occurs in such instances as *Edderline* ARG, and *Eddrachillis* SUT.

The particular attraction of Patrick McKay's volume is the careful listing of forms, the description of relevant location explanations, and the learned comments on language and history. These continue the tradition of the series as a benchmark for studies of this kind, which for Northern Irish onomasticians are likely to be the foundation for future studies. There may be criticism that minor names and toponyms are not covered, but we are dealing here with the very core of onomastic material which requires the kind of serious academic attention that must form the bedrock of work on the onomasticon. Patrick McKay is to be congratulated on this volume, as are the other members of the Research Group, Kay Muhr and Nollaig Ó Muraíle. In times when financial support is very much hand-to-mouth, the Group have performed nobly, and future volumes in this excellent series are keenly awaited.

IAN A. FRASER

EGON FELDER, *Die Personennamen auf den merowingischen Münzen der Bibliothèque nationale de France* (Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, philosophisch-historische Klasse Abhandlungen, neue Folge, Heft 112, Veroffentlichung der Kommission für Namenforschung), Munich 2003. 702 pp. + 1 map, no price given. Paperback (ISBN 3769601173)

The onomastic interest of the coinage edited here (from c.500 in the reign of Chlodwig to the end of the Merovingian period 751) begins with the royal coinages from Theudebert (534–48) onwards, which provide, however, but a restricted number of kings' names. (The preceding, so-called pseudo-imperialist royal coinage mainly has names of Byzantine emperors.) It is the coins from the moneyer coinages ("Monetarprägungen"), minted from 575/580 on, with usually a place-name (frequently accompanied by e.g., 'civitas') on one side, and a personal name (sometimes accompanied by 'MONETARIVS' or an abbreviation thereof) on the other, that provide the not inconsiderable bulk of name material on the coins in the collection edited in this volume.

Felder (p. 24) identifies three aims for his treatment of this material: 1. the establishment and editing of the surviving personal names, 2. the attempt to classify name-forms according to whether or not they identify the same person, 3. the linguistic assessment of the names. The results are presented in Part I, in the form of individual articles devoted to each name or name-element, every form of which is cited along with the place-names. Accessibility is aided by the indices of lemmata and of the individual articles. In Part II the material is organised according to "Munzort", the blanket term adopted by Felder given the uncertainty expressed as to whether the places were the minting places as well as, surely, the places of emission of the coinage. This again is accompanied by helpful indices glossing place and "Munzort" names, though maps locating these would be an invaluable supplement to the single map showing the ancient provinces.

The treatment illustrates the interdependence of onomastics, numismatics, and linguistics. For instance, the first task, to establish the corpus of names, involves interpretation of the spelling forms on the coins, and encounters the sorts of difficulties in handling the material familiar to students of Anglo-Saxon coins: inverted graphs, 'non-rectilinear' sequences of graphs, wear and tear of the coins.

The editorial system of subscript dots distinguishes (un-subscripted) clear graphs from those which are either fragmentary or very fragmentary.

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Expansion of fragmentary graphs follows both numismatic and onomastic principles. Obviously, a dubious reading on a coin may be expanded if the coin is from the same die as another with a clear legend. And an expansion is acceptable if it contributes to a plausible name, or part thereof. Therefore, as Felder stresses, a reading rests on interpretation, specifically the type of interpretation at work in the etymological treatments in Part I; and a false interpretation may lead to the introduction of 'ghost names'. Interpretation of the spellings involves both consideration of possible epigraphic variants of the same graph (e.g., a <G> can take the form of an <S>), as well as the prevalent Latin-based orthographic system. Thus <C> could be written for <G>, and Germanic "h-" in absolute initial position was either 'not written', or represented as <CH> or <H> (but not with <C>).

With respect to possible identity of name and person, self-evident criteria are followed, with due acknowledgement of the tentative nature of identification according to the timespan within which a name recurs, and its location at the same or a neighbouring mint. Again, numismatic assessment is significant for the analysis of the name-material. Felder's suggestion that although the moneyer was obviously the one responsible for the coins with his name, he is not to be identified with the die cutter (pp. 22–23) impinges on the linguistic analysis of the names. Factors appropriately considered by Felder are the juxtaposition of several languages in Merovingian Gaul, as well as the inclusion of the Germanic names in the Latin / Romance sound systems, which followed from the borrowing of the names. We are confronted, however, by the queries that exercise Anglo-Saxonists, as to whether location of a "Munzort" is a reliable guide to regional variation in spelling and phonology, what factors 'regulated' the spelling forms, and whether a spelling may be that of the moneyer, or, if a different person, of the die-cutter.

The Germanic names which constitute 75% of the corpus (cf. the c.25% of mainly Latin tradition, with some Greek) could be subject to Latinisation in the form of inflectional suffixes, including the albeit infrequently testified genitive on forms of moneyers' names. Now, while the genitive can be regarded as syntactically determined (e.g., 'the coin of X'), the two other attested cases are apparently not so. The nominative "-VS" and the suffix "-O" occur independently of context. The latter may be the product of syncretism of the Latin dative and ablative, which Felder regards as possibly a vulgar Latin oblique case. Felder's observation about the indiscriminate, syntactically independent, use of the two 'cases', makes one look again at such early Anglo-Saxon moneyer-spellings as <OTIBVINIO>, on coins

whose production may be assumed to have been influenced, if not perpetrated, by continentals.

Consideration of the formation of the names influences the quest for etymologies in Part I. Felder's observation that personal names typically lack the significance ("Bedeutung") of appellatives is mostly apt, but it assumes, or misleadingly implies (i) that names can ever have the "Bedeutung" of appellatives (as asserted for the compositional type **Dago-bert**, 'day' + 'bright'), (ii) that Germanic name-elements are all appellative-based, and (iii) that names and appellatives belong to the same syntactic category: all most controversial. The formal motivation for name-formation in the need to express family relations (otherwise familiar as the Germanic principles of alliteration and repetition with variation of name-elements) is, however, appropriately invoked as a caution against semantic arguments for etymologies, involving subjectivity. And yet we find apparent inconsistencies in the form of subjective judgements invoked, for instance for "CHVN" (pp. 217–18): "[d]ie Bedeutung 'junger Bär' oder 'junges Tier' schien für die Personennamengebung wenig geeignet...".

Felder (p. 27 n. 26) succumbs to the difficulties of interpreting single-element names as either original monothematic names or short forms of dithematic ones, by opting to treat "einstämmiger Name' und 'Kurzname'" as synonymous terms. This brings me to two issues on which I would welcome more expansive treatment and clarification. One is the need for clarification of the ways terms such as 'Kurzname', 'lall', 'hypocoristic', 'kindersprachlich', etc., are traditionally used in etymologically-based onomastics. The second issue is that of types of suffixes which may be identifiable as name-forming, rather than inflectional. What for instance, is the status of the sequence <OLENO> / <ELENO> in, for example, <BOSOLENO>, <BODOLENO>, <FRAMELENO>?

The treatment of the etymologies of the putative stems in Part I is full and critically evaluative of the principal references (Förstemann, Kaufmann, Morlet). It rightly acknowledges disruption of "geradlinigen Etymologie": that a strict Neogrammarian 'descent' of forms from an original stem is not appropriate given the possibility of mutual influences of names and name-elements. Regrettable, however, is the decision to avoid phonological representation in the discussions of the spellings. This is not justified by an alleged obvious correspondence between phoneme and grapheme, nor by the observation that the graphs on the coins are always capitals (p. 33). This decision renders opaque any discussion of, for instance, the status of vowel

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digraphs (e.g., <AV>), as representing diphthongs or not, and leaves unaddressed the quality of vowels in unstressed syllables as 'reduced' or not (e.g. the <E> of <CHARE>, cf. <CHARI>).

The stems are arranged in alphabetical order, without consideration of their affiliation with a particular language, which is stated or discussed in each article. The question of choice of lemmata, or head-forms, is always problematical for this type of material. Whatever principles one aims at adopting will have varying success and consistency in their application. So it is with some sympathy that I comment on the procedure adopted and elucidated by Felder (p. 29). In general, the lemmata are closely connected with the real examples of the name-forms: so, e.g., CHVN, rather than HVN, is the lemma for the element mentioned above, and ordered alphabetically with stems with initial <H>. But then starred forms are used both for reconstructed Germanic forms ("*Harja-") and for reconstructed spelling forms ("*AIGAN"). Such varied principles may hinder Germanicists in search of a particular root, or stem, but at least they represent an attempt at faithful presentation of the epigraphic data.

In the light of Felder's acknowledgement of the curtailment of his original plan, thus limiting space for detailed linguistic commentary, my pleas for analyses and more extensive information are ungenerous. Let them serve, however, to illustrate the range of areas of scholarship for which the treasury of data presented by Felder is of value. The sheer editing of the forms on the coins in this collection is no mean achievement, and the volume will surely become a standard reference work.

FRAN COLMAN

BARRIE COX, *A Dictionary of Leicestershire and Rutland Place-Names*, EPNS Popular Series, vol. 5. English Place-Name Society, Nottingham, 2005. xxx + 160 pp. £11.00 to EPNS members; £14.00 to non-members. Paperback (ISBN 0 904889 70 X)

Barrie Cox's *A Dictionary of Leicestershire and Rutland Place-Names* fully maintains the high standards set in earlier volumes of the English Place-Name Society Popular Series. Presenting a digest of information from the English Place-Name Survey volumes for Rutland (completed) and Leicestershire (in progress) by the same author, it makes available the latest scholarly research on the place-names of both counties in a format accessible to non-specialists.

The eight-page introduction outlines the relationship between place-names and major historical developments from the Bronze Age through to Victorian times, with particular emphasis on the linguistic origins and significance of place-names of different types. This is followed by dictionary entries for a generous cross-section of major and minor toponyms, including "all the names of the medieval ecclesiastical and later civil parishes, together with the names of other townships or hamlets for which historical evidence exists" and "a wide selection of less important or minor names such as those of hills, streams, roads, granges, farms and lodges" (p. xix). The place-names of the two counties are presented in separate alphabetical lists, but there is a single, comprehensive glossary of elements.

Entries are concise but informative, typically comprising the headform followed by a four-figure National Grid reference number, parish (for minor names), earliest and selected later spellings, etymology and brief discussion. The provision of historical and geographical context is particularly helpful. For instance, Fenny Drayton (p. 36) is defined as 'the farmstead, village where loads have to be dragged', with the affix 'boggy' reflecting the location on heavy, wet ground: "It is situated astride the Roman road from Mancetter to Leicester, which in Anglo-Saxon times may have seriously deteriorated at this point; hence the problems with the transportation of loads". Bury Camp 'the fortification' (p. 19) is explained as "Possibly of Roman origin, since the earthworks are of typical playing-card shape. May early have been constructed by a detachment of the VIII Legion whose presence hereabouts is indicated by a tile bearing its stamp found in Leicester". Hose 'the hill-spurs' (p. 51) is accounted for by the situation of the village "at the foot of the Wolds which form a series of northward projecting promontories here". Later place-names receive equally careful explication, as with Belle Isle (p. 9) "Built after the Enclosure of 1760 and named from Belle Isle (Strait) in Canada, which featured in Wolfe's victorious campaign in the Seven Years War with France", and Eyres Monsell (p. 35) "An early 1970s urban development named from Eyres Monsell, 1st Viscount Monsell, 1881-1969. A Conservative politician raised to the peerage in 1935". Interpretations are generally unexceptionable, and alternatives are discussed where appropriate. Under Frog Hall Farm (p. 38), however, Cox suggests either a whimsical usage of hall or a development of OE halh in its sense 'a water-meadow' without apparently considering the possibility of a development from OE hol 'a hole', as documented in early spellings of the same place-name in Staffordshire and Suffolk.

The glossary includes both medieval and modern vocabulary, and brings

to light elements which have not to my knowledge been previously recorded in place-names. One such is OE *thūma* 'a thumb', possibly used in a transferred sense of a dwarf, fairy or hobgoblin. This is suggested as the first element of Tomley Hall Farm (p. 106), a place-name first attested as *Longetomlowe* (1343) and subsequently as *Tomley* (1606, 1628), *Thomley Hall* (1846). The derivation is, as Cox acknowledges, far from certain, but the possibility is an interesting one. So too is the suggestion that Turnpost Farm (p. 107), recorded in 1925, may contain a word *turnpost* used as a local alternative for *turnpike* 'a toll-gate' but unrecorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary* or the *English Dialect Dictionary*.

In short, this is an attractively produced, reasonably priced, and reliable volume by the leading authority on the place-names of Leicestershire and Rutland. It can be heartily recommended to both an academic and a lay readership.

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