Names in the Irish built environment transferred due to a common function

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Outline of paper

- What is meant by "name transferred due to a common function or association" and which names are included in this group?

- Some examples from Ireland, mostly names transferred from London, e.g. *Smithfield, Bridewell, Mansion House*; 'exotics' such as *Rialto, Casino*

- Some matters relating to name theory, terminology and appropriate translation

Bully's Acre,
Kilmainham, Co. Dublin

Margadh na Feirme
Smithfield

Smithfield
Dublin

Smithfield

- Etymology < OE *smēðe feld,* 'smooth field' only applies to Smithfield in London, the *epotoponym*

- Etymology unrelated to function of site as a livestock market

- For secondary occurrences of *Smithfield* in Dublin and Belfast, primary etymology is irrelevant

- Motivation for copying the primary name to secondary locations was similarity of function

Mansion House, Dublin
(built 1710)

Bridewell

- Bridewell: holy well dedicated to St. Brigit, near St. Bride's Church in Fleet Street, London

- a royal palace built in 1510 by Thomas Wolsey; became a residence of Henry VIII in 1515

- Edward VI gave the palace to the city in 1553; then functioned as a hospital, prison and workhouse (English Heritage, www.pastscape.org.uk)

- Bridewell built in Dublin c. 1604; marked on Speed's map of Dublin published in 1610 (*IHTA xi*, 26)

- Twice replaced by newer buildings built NW and W of the city

Other London to Dublin transfers

- Fleet Street
- Pimlico
- Watling Street
- Pudding Lane, Pye Corner
- Temple Bar

'Exotic' transfers

- Rialto
- Marino
- Casino
- Portobello
- Montenotte (Cork)
- Ormeau (Belfast)
- Rosetta (Belfast)

Brink's Categorisation of Transferred Names

1) "an *analogical* transfer of a name, due to association with or resemblance to a place, for example, the coining of a name *Dímun* for a two-peaked island, due to its resemblance to or association with some known 'prototype', some two-peaked island or natural feature" (Brink 2016, 164).

Suggested guidelines

- Vital to identify epotoponym and to differentiate it from secondary instances

- Meaning of the primary name should not be applied to secondary instances

- Translation of 'copied names' requires care: translation should be based on the shared function or association rather than on the meaning of the primary name

Examples of good practice

- Smithfield (Dublin) - *Margadh na Feirme* , 'farm market'

- Bridewell Lane (Killarney, Mitchelstown) - *Lána na Smachtlainne,* 'lane of the prison / house of correction'

- Mansion House (Dublin) - *Teach an Ardmhéara,* 'house of the lord mayor'

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