



Names Places People

SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Respect where it is due!



This is a sign (with a map) in Spanish in the Asturian mountains, 1700 metres up the misty glen at the top of which are the Lagos de Salencia. Lagos is Spanish, and has been corrected to Asturian Llagos, and an edifying instruction added: 'Respect the toponymy'. Quite right!

Photo and text **Gilbert Márkus**

Note from the President:

At the 2015 AGM in Norwich, elections will be held for the Hon. Secretary position, following **Emily Pennifold's** decision to stand down, and for one ordinary member of the Society's committee. **Dr Harry Parkin** has been co-opted to replace Emily as Hon. Secretary until the 2015 AGM, when he will be formally proposed for the office by the committee. The committee would like to thank Emily for the hard work she has put in over the last few years, and Harry for stepping into the breach.

Newsletter NS. 10 Spring 2015

Hello and welcome to the 10th Newsletter in our 'New Series' (NS). This means that the newsletter has appeared in this format for 5 years now. I hope that members continue to enjoy the newsletter as a means of keeping up-to-date with news and events in our field of study

The late autumn of 2014 and the start of 2015 seem to have been very busy for the onomastic community, so again we have several reports of conferences and meetings in the field.

Sadly, once again, we have to record the loss of a long-standing member, but we have also welcomed several new members to our midst. I am grateful to members who notify me about losses among our senior members and would encourage you all to keep me informed.

I am also grateful for the continued offerings of photos, reports, news items and conference notices. Please keep them coming. I hope that you enjoy this issue and feel encouraged to contribute to the next.
Linda M. Corrigan (Editor)

CHARITY NO. 0177455
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:
2014-15

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Ms Eleanor Rye

Dr Paul Tempan

Professor Diana Whaley

Stop Press:

last chance to book

**March 27–29 2015, SNSBI
Twenty-fourth Spring
Conference, UEA**

treasurer@snsbi.org.uk

April 7-9, 2015 MANCASS

**Easter Conference Manhood
in Anglo-Saxon England**

[charles.insley@manchester.ac](mailto:charles.insley@manchester.ac.uk)

.uk) See also pages 7-8 for other
events



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SNSBI Twenty-fourth Spring Conference, March 27–29, 2015

East Anglian places and people

To be held in the **Thomas Paine Study Centre** at the University of East Anglia, in conjunction with the **Centre of East Anglian Studies** (CEAS). By the time this newsletter reaches you, most if not all of the residential places will be taken. However, there is a day rate of £15 for SNSBI members and £20 for non-members Details at [http://www.snsbi.org.uk/2015 Norwich ch.html](http://www.snsbi.org.uk/2015_Norwich.html)

The draft program (subject to change) is:

Friday 27 March

15.30 onwards registration, tea/coffee

18.00 bar & dinner

Session 1:

20.00-21.00 Tom Williamson

(UEA) – opening address

Saturday 28 March

Session 2: *Beyond East Anglia*

09.00 Carole Hough

(University of Glasgow): *The Scottish Maidenwells*

09.30 Graham Collis (UEA): *The -ingahem names of the Lumbres Canton (Pas-de-Calais)*

10.00 Robert Briggs

(University of Nottingham): *-ingas and -ingaham place-names in Surrey*

Session 3: *East Anglia*

11.00 Keith Briggs (UWE): *Some Suffolk place-name puzzles*

11.30 Susan Kilby

(University of Leicester): *The secret life of the fields: extraordinary ordinary landscapes*

Session 4: *East Anglian personal names*

14.00 Patrick Hanks (UWE): *East Anglian surnames*

14.30 Paul Cullen (UWE/Nottingham): *Locative surnames in East Anglia*

15.00 Veronica Smart: *The moneyers' names of the St Edmund memorial coinage*

15.30 Shaun Tyas: *Onomastic problems connected with the study of the reign of Ecgberht of Wessex*

Session 5: *Scandinavians in East Anglia*

16.30 Gillian Fellows-Jensen

(University of Copenhagen): *Looking even more closely at the Nordic element in East Anglian place-names*

17.15 Peder Gammeltoft (University of Copenhagen): *East Anglia and Jutland – a comparative place-name study across the North Sea*

Session 6: *Project reports*

20.00-21.30 Approximately 15 minutes per speaker :

(1) **Kelly Kilpatrick:** *Suffolk place-name project.*

(2) **Aengus Finnegan:** new website *Placenames*

Database of Ireland.

(3) **Keith Briggs:** *An index to personal names in place-names.*

Sunday 29 March

09.00-10.00 SNSBI Annual General Meeting

Session 7: *Scandinavians in England*

10.00 David Boulton (UEA): *The geographical context of Scandinavian place-names in East Anglia*

10.30 Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen (University of Copenhagen): *Thorps, soils, churches and rent.*

11.00 Eleanor Rye (University of Nottingham): *The Scandinavian vocabulary of North-West England's microtoponymy.*

Session 8: *East Anglian landscapes*

11.45 Edward Martin: *East Anglian landscape history and place-names.*

13.45 coach excursion

Session 9: *Beyond East Anglia*

20.00 Rebecca Gregory (University of Nottingham): *Field- and minor names of Thurgarton wapentake in Nottinghamshire*

20.30 Kishli Laister (University of Cardiff): *Animals in Gloucestershire place-names*

21.00 Katie Hambrook (East Oxford community archaeology project): *East Oxford place-names and field-*



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names.

Delegates will disperse on the Monday morning after breakfast.

Conference reports:

ICOS Glasgow, 25th-29th
August 2014 (<http://www.icos2014.com/>)
Report By **Jennifer Scherr**

Some 250 delegates gathered to attend the 25th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, on the theme 'Names and their Environment', held at the University of Glasgow and hosted by ICOS President (and SNSBI Vice-President) **Professor Carole Hough**. The delegates represented over 40 countries, though on this occasion the largest contingent was from the UK (including over 30 colleagues from Scotland). There were also a number of 'first-timers' from amongst the SNSBI membership. The Keynote Lectures were given by **Simon Taylor**, **Richard Coates** and **Peder Gammeltoft**. Simon opened the conference with a tour-de-force overview entitled '*Charting a course through the Scottish namescape*'. Richard introduced the impressive database at the University of the West of England, Bristol in '*Family*

names in the UK and beyond'. Peder looked at exciting current and future online developments in '*Onomastics for all: how can new technology help broaden the appeal of name research?*'. Criss-crossing University Avenue between the Wolfson and Boyd Orr Buildings, we were offered a dazzling array of papers under the general themes of Anthroponomastics, Commercial Names, Literary Onomastics, Socio-onomastics, Toponomastics, and Theory and Methodology. A few papers were even presented under the heading 'Other Names': a reminder to future potential speakers that ICOS may welcome all approaches! At refreshment breaks, we met up to talk in the Wolfson Building atrium, where book stalls, poster displays, publicity and Congress merchandise were set out. The Scottish Place-Name Society sponsored an opening reception at the Hunterian Art Gallery, and a civic reception was hosted by the City of Glasgow in their Chambers. Wednesday was given over to a choice of excursions based around Paisley Abbey, Loch Lomond, Stirling, Glasgow Cathedral or the Antonine Wall.

The ICOS Glasgow overall was an immense success, and a fitting credit to Carole's dedication and commitment as out-going President of ICOS. Planning and organisation generally was impressively smooth, in the hands of the Congress Team led by **Daria Izdebska**. The atmosphere was friendly and welcoming and, as ever, many new cross-national links were formed. The papers from the 2011 ICOS, held in Barcelona, are available online at www.gencat.cat/llengua/BTPL/ICOS2011 and Glasgow is to follow suit.

A Tribute to Margaret Gelling: SNSBI one-day conference, Gateway Education and Arts Centre, Shrewsbury, Saturday 25 October, 2014.
Report by **Diana Whaley**



(continues overleaf)



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A Tribute to Margaret

Gelling: (continued)

This was a rewarding and very enjoyable day, conceived and organised by **Sue Laflin** with assistance from **Oliver Padel**, **Julia Stanbridge**, and **Ann Cole**.

Although Margaret died in 2009, memories of her will remain fresh for a very long time, and the day did honour to her as a place-name scholar and a person. The difficult task of summarising Margaret's impact was tidily addressed by devoting the morning to a set of views of her achievement by scholars who worked with her, and the afternoon to progress reports on the completion of her *Place-Names of Shropshire*.

Paul Cavill, in *Margaret and the EPNS*, highlighted Margaret's distinguished contribution to the Survey of English Place-Names, as editor of the Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Shropshire county surveys. He noted her initiatives, as in the treatment of minor names and Anglo-Saxon charter bounds, but also the scholarly caution which made her reluctant to commit guesses to paper.

Ann Cole, whose extremely fruitful collaboration with Margaret began in 1981, was ideally placed to speak of *Margaret and Topographical Place-Names*, and it was

fascinating to have her view of the motivation, and the principles, of Margaret's truly paradigm-shifting work on place-names and landscape.



(Photo: Brian Corrigan)

Della Hooke, in *Understanding the Anglo-Saxon Landscape* and **Ros Faith**, in *The Changing Face of Settlement Studies*, drew inspiration from Margaret's work as they presented thoughts on, respectively, woodland, pasture and meadow, and Old English habitative names containing personal names. In the last paper of the morning, *Margaret and Toponymic Surnames*, **Paul Cullen** visited a slightly less familiar sphere of Margaret's work, bringing new evidence, especially about surname distribution, to bear on lists



(Photo: Brian Corrigan)

of habitation (locative) surnames that she had published in 2003.

The afternoon began with a tribute from **Christopher Dyer** (read in his unavoidable absence by **Oliver Padel**), in which Margaret's lively mind, determination and warmth were celebrated. The remaining papers arose from the AHRC-funded project to complete the EPNS survey of Shropshire (edited by Margaret as far as Part VI) and began with an overview from **Jayne Carroll** as project leader, then **Helen Watt** spoke of *Supplementing Margaret's Collection of Forms for Shropshire*, and of the technical advances that are enabling the project to link the material to digital mapping. **John Baker** considered aspects of the historical interpretation of Old English names and name-elements in *Signposts to Shropshire's Past* and **David Parsons** ended with a review of *Shropshire River-Names*, taking Margaret's provisional categorisations of them as Welsh and English as his starting-point. In suggesting that her theory about the history of the Welsh language in Shropshire may need refining he sounded a note often heard during the day. Margaret's outstanding scholarship has left us with a



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lasting and precious legacy in many areas of place-name studies. Meanwhile ongoing work aided by new information and new resources will continue to refine our understanding, and Margaret's open-mindedness and encouragement of scholars new to the field leave us in no doubt that she would have welcomed this. Everyone present must have gone away with renewed feelings of admiration, affection and gratitude towards Margaret, and we all owe a great debt to Sue Laflin and all who were involved in putting on this splendid day.

Kentish Names: Kent Archaeological Society in association with the **Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies**, day conference at the University of Kent, 1 November, 2014. Report by **Shaun Tyas**. About ninety people heard seven papers, two given by the author of this report. The star of the show was, of course, Dr Paul Cullen, who gave two papers, both without a script, and prompted only by his power-point presentation. The first *Roger Waggehorn, Thomas Twyseaday and Henry Cutbush: Kentish Surnames derived from Nicknames*, drew on Paul's experience as a member of

the Bristol *Family Names of the UK* project as well as his detailed knowledge of Kent sources. Independent scholar **Duncan Harrington**, spoke on *Chartham Charters*, showing the range of charter materials for one village in Kent and concentrating on those for the Wanstall family between the 13th and 15th centuries. **Shaun Tyas** presented some new ideas from his forthcoming book on *King Ecgberht of Wessex*, and various onomastic problems found in that study, such as the location of a lost place-name *Cherrenhul* and the site of the church synod in 839 *aet Astran*. Shaun used onomastic patterns in the names in royal dynasties to suggest cut-throat competition in the Mercian royal dynasty and to question Ecgberht's descent. After lunch, **Paul Cullen** treated the audience to his detailed knowledge of Kent place-names (he is the EPNS county editor for Kent), with *Canterbury Place-Names and Street Names*. His observations on the name of Canterbury itself, clearly meaning nothing more than 'the fortified settlement of the people of Kent', and first appearing in charters as late as the early 9th century, seemingly named by people

outside the kingdom, were fascinating. Paul showed that the city was almost certainly called simply 'The Burg' before then.

Sheila Sweetinburgh, from the host university, followed with a study of *Place-Names in Textual Mapping: how and why the authorities used place-names to map St Lawrence's influence and [re]create its institutional identity in the turbulent fifteenth century*. This examined the three surviving copies of the Register of St Lawrence, a daughter house of St Augustine's Abbey in the city, and explored the ways in which the Hospital's charters were used to emphasise its ancient and central place in the city's view of itself. Ph.D. student **Ciaran Arthur**'s fascinating paper on *Places in Old English Charms*, showed that though surviving charms do not mention place-names, suggesting no specific place of use, 28 of the 87 do mention places, such as roads, bridges, gates, or the outside of churches. Ciaran concentrated on charms found in sources from Winchester and Canterbury. He offered a thought-provoking conclusion, that charms were actually Christian texts (or at least Christianised), designed to



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Kentish Names Day

(continued)

serve spiritual needs in the wider community outside the church.

The final paper was another by **Shaun Tyas**, on *Football Club Nicknames*, using mostly examples from the south-east to illustrate his taxonomy of the subject. Shaun also ran a bookstall at the event.

Most of the questions were stimulated by Paul's excellent papers. Power-point played up a little, with the odd blackout, 'dalek' noise and change of slide, but Microsoft failed to spoil a hugely enjoyable day.

Fifth Cameron Memorial Lecture

'The other millennium: English place-naming after the Norman Conquest' given by Professor **Diana Whaley**, 9 January 2015 at the University of Nottingham. Report by **Eleanor Rye**. Diana first assessed the extent of existing post-Conquest place-name scholarship, arguing that it is under-represented when compared with the study of pre-Conquest place-names. She observed that there is as a result no consensus about which questions might be fruitfully addressed when investigating post-Conquest

naming practices. The remainder of the lecture considered some areas where investigation of post-Conquest names could be particularly informative. Diana then moved on to consider how post-Conquest naming sheds light on rural and urban life and ecclesiastical developments in the later medieval period and, in the final part of the lecture, examined modern place-names, in particular in the area between Craster and Dunstanburgh on the Northumberland coast. She noted examples of place-names reflecting local traditions and events and suggested points of lexicographical interest. An intriguing example of the latter was Diana's observation that the name **The Skaith**, which Ordnance Survey name books record as a place where games took place, suggests the existence of an otherwise unrecorded dialect word derived from Old Norse *skeið* 'a course, a race' (which occasioned much discussion in the bar after the lecture).

News:

SNSBI People:

Long-standing SNSBI members will be saddened to hear of the death of **Sir James Clarke Holt** 1922-2014, Honorary Fellow, Merton College, Oxford who

was a member of the society for many years. The following details are taken from the website of Merton College Oxford. <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/news/> May 2014. Jim Holt came to Merton as Harmsworth Senior Scholar in 1947, after war service in the Royal Artillery and an undergraduate degree at Queen's. Subsequently he was Professor and Head of the History Department at both Nottingham and Reading, Professor of Medieval History (1978-1988) and Master of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (1981-1988), President of the Royal Historical Society and Vice-President of the British Academy. His book *Magna Carta* (1965), is due to be reissued for the 800th anniversary of the Great Charter in 2015. See also *The Telegraph* <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/10825256/Sir-James-Holt-obituary.html>

News:

Nomina

A quick update from the editors of *Nomina* - Volume 36 is about to go off for copy editing and we expect it to be ready for publication very soon. Volume 37 should not be too far behind and will (we hope) also appear during 2015. *Excellent news!* (Ed)

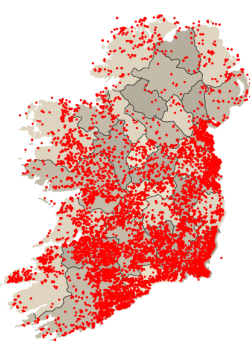


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Website which may be of interest to members:

The Place-Names Database of Ireland

<http://www.logainm.ie/en/gls>

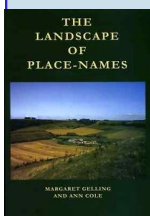


This is the distribution map for *baile* 'townland, town, homestead'. Aengus Finnegan will be

talking about this new website at the spring conference in Norwich.

Recent Publications:

Gelling, Margaret and Cole, Ann *The Landscape of Place*



-Names, now back in print in a revised third edition. Shaun Tyas, Donington. ISBN: 978-1-907730-38-2, PB, £19.95.

Purchasing details from Shaun Tyas at: shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk

Plant, John

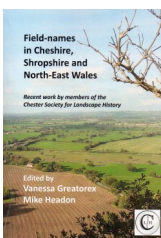
[<dr.j.s.plant@gmail.com>](mailto:dr.j.s.plant@gmail.com)
Comparison of the distribution

of English surnames in modern England, in *Surname DNA Journal*, January 2015.

<http://www.surnamedna.com/?articles=english-surnames-plural-origins-and-emigration>

Greatorex, Vanessa and Headon, Mike

Field-Names in Cheshire, Shropshire and North-East Wales. 2014, Chester Society



for Landscape History. ISBN: 9780954970550, PB. £5.00

From: Mike Headon (CSLH), 2 Oxwich Road, Mochdre, Colwyn Bay LL28 5AG. (Cheques payable to CSLH) *Much interest in this at Shrewsbury in October 2014!* (Ed)

Forthcoming publications:

Owen, Hywel Wyn *The Place-Names of Wales*,

University of Wales Press, February 2015 £11.99 PB 136pp. ISBN: 9781783161645

This updated publication adds some thirty entries, which take into consideration more recent research.

Forthcoming events:

27- 29 March 2015

Guild of One-Name Studies
36th Guild Conference at Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort, Near Brigg, Lincolnshire

The programme will consist of: two keynote speakers – Laurence Harris (from My Heritage) and Mark Bayley (from S&N Genealogy); a panel session; a choice of a series of “Tools & Technique” presentations (T&T) or “Interactive Sessions” (IS). The T&T presentations will provide helpful and useful advice on a number of aspects including – Webinars, Facebook, WordPress, Publishing options, Cloud software – TNG and Blogs. The IS sessions will provide a 15 minute presentation followed by an interactive session, topics will include – Globalization of your Study, DNA getting started, Forums and Succession proofing your study.

More details about the Conference and a booking form can be found at: www.one-name.org/conf2015.html *Regrettably this conference coincides with the SNSBI Spring Conference, an unintended overlap.* (Ed)

Please note that this is simply a listing of items of potential interest to members. Listing here does not imply any opinion regarding quality, academic rigour etc. Where appropriate, reviews will appear in **Nomina** in due course.



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Forthcoming events

(continued):

7-9 April 2015

Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies (MANCASS) Easter Conference

Manhood in Anglo-Saxon England

To be held at Hulme Hall, University of Manchester.

Enquiries to the conference director, **Dr Charles Insley**, Department of History, University of Manchester

charles.insley@manchester.ac.uk

6 June 2015

British Association for Local History's major annual event Location: The Priory Rooms, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF

In the morning session Dr Stuart Davies will explore what 'Public History' is and how it relates to local history. The BALH Annual Lecture will be given by Prof Angus Winchester from Lancaster University who will discuss Common Lands and their management in history, including comparison with the wider European experience.

Also in the programme are the celebration of 2015 Local History Awards for research & publication, for a society newsletter, and for personal achievement, and the

Association's Annual General Meeting.

Member Price: **£25.00**

Non-Member Price: **£35.00**

Details available on the web site <http://www.balh.org.uk/events> and from BALH(L),

7, St Mark's Road, Salisbury, SP1 3AY. N.B. SNSBI is a corporate member of BALH.

13-17 July 2015

The 15th International Congress of Celtic Studies

at the University of Glasgow.

The International Congress of Celtic Studies is the foremost international gathering of scholars researching the languages, literatures and cultural traditions of the Celtic-speaking peoples. Held once every four years, the Congress provides a forum in which experts from across the full range of Celtic Studies - including linguistics, literature, history, archaeology and art history - come together to share the fruits of their work. <http://www.celticstudiescongress.org/index.php/english/>.

2-5 September 2015

European Association of Archaeologists. Annual meeting. 'Archaeology and Mobility' theme: **North Atlantic Islands: Networks, Settlement, and Identity**

In the last decade island archaeology has been the focus for increasing research. These studies have vastly increased our knowledge of past North Atlantic societies. They have emphasized movement, shared worldviews and social identities. This has led to engaging debates and challenged previously held interpretations of past North Atlantic island societies.

This session explores the island archaeology of the North Atlantic. It is particularly focused on the early medieval and medieval archaeology. Full information can be found on the conference website:

<http://eaaglasgow2015.com/session/north-atlantic-islands-networks-settlementand-identity/>

Future SNSBI Conferences:

In the pipeline are:

2015:

10 October, 2015

Autumn Day Conference in Newcastle (venue to be announced)

2016:

Spring Conference in Ireland (Maynooth) dates to be confirmed

SNSBI Newsletter

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