Its nomenclature is much more varied than that of the Weald: a point perhaps worth pondering when comparing the early-colonized wood-pasture regions with those settled mainly after the Conquest.

28. These figures are based on the one-inch map; the 2½" sheets might add further examples. 'Green' also occurs frequently (19 times) and 'land' is very common; but one suspects that in most cases these relate to more recent secondary settlements, here as elsewhere.

29. Cf. Smith, op.cit., I, p.135. This is certainly the significance of Drayton (between Nevill Holt and Brighouse) in Leics., and Drayton (near Olid and Walgrave) in Northants. At Dry Drayton in W. Cambs. (formerly Wold Drayton) the present lane leading up to the hill from the village, to the once-wooded country to the south, probably represents the old dry. I have discussed this element (and some others) in 'The Wolds Once More', Journal of Historical Geography, V, 1979, pp.67-71.

30. Smith, op.cit., II, p.18. In Kent the name is particularly common, most frequently in the local form 'leacon'. It invariably relates to a subsidiary settlement, as at Westwell Leacon, Warehorne Leacon, etc. These are generally obscure outlying places, often a mile or more from the parent settlement, and can hardly have been the 'leak enclosures', 'kitchen gardens', or 'herb gardens' sometimes suggested. The fact that they are usually sited on the wooded sandy or heathy spots often favoured by the wild leek or garlic is suggestive, and in some cases this plant may still be found there. This explanation also fits the Leics. Laughton (next Moveley). The point is that all these look like poor outlying woodland places in origin, and not productive domestic gardens: see my article 'The Wolds Once More', loc.cit., p.169 and n.


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Setting a philologist an historian must be unfair to both; for, agree though they may in both being 'applied' anthropologists, their preoccupations cannot but diverge.

Mr. McKinley is not, nor does he claim to be, the boldest of etymologists. Among the twelfth-century forms he renounces all attempt to explain as Chevaucheshon (p.10), 'the lone ranger' (so being the normal reflex of *solomon* in much twelfth-century Anglo-Norman texts as the Dibby Holond) and Xepeqheshon, alleged to occur only in Oxford (p.2), its early certainly found also in late-twelfth-century Canterbury and perhaps meaning 'fend off danger' (see MED s.v. *leper*, sense 3a(b), and cf. 17a(a) and 18a(a)). About all matters linguistic there is a pervasive uncertainty: thus, the mid-thirteenth-century forms de Eschequer, de la Cheker, are dismissed as 'presumably Anglo-Norman', with the comment, 'It may be doubted if any Middle English forms existed' (p.19); but we must assume, just because MED notes no literary occurrence earlier than Floris and Blaumenflur (?1250-1275), that previously the vernacular could name neither grooms-board nor fiscal institution? Of all by-name categories, nicknames get least attention here (the preceding volume on Norfolk and Suffolk [reviewed in NOMINA I by Peter McClure] largely omitted them), perhaps because of their individuality.

For the theme of this series so generously sponsored by the Marc Fitch Fund is not etymology but local history, especially the study of small-scale population movement. A major topic here is the development of the immigration which built up Oxford's population, traced through noms d'origine referring to places elsewhere in the county or outside it, the conclusion being that, apart from Oxford itself, only the neighbouring Berkshire played much part in peopling the city. Yet, even from this point of view, some tricks are missed. In contrast with the painstaking work on migration-patterns inside England, little notice is taken of non-aristocratic immigration from the Continent: admittedly a complex question to study through by-names, whose transmission remains so obscure. In some medieval English towns the by-names current included not only continental noms d'origine but also many nicknames paralleled in continental records, especially those of towns in north-eastern France; and it would have been useful to know whether, as some forms cited (e.g., in the lists on p.261) suggest, this was true of Oxford also - but the question is never put. Perhaps in this local history the accent falls too heavily on 'local'.

Yet, paradoxically, the local restrictions of this series also widen its scope: for scrutinizing a single county brings out patterns blurred by over-ample material. Here, as in the Norfolk and Suffolk volume, the rise of hereditary family-names is carefully plotted: in Oxfordshire too the process was gradual and capricious, beginning with the post-Conquest gentry but not completed until the sixteenth century. In Oxford city, unexpectedly, family-names seem not to have become fixed until later than for the corresponding social groups in country districts. And now structural development is analysed more systematically than before. Until about 1300 patronymics are mainly appositional and asyndetic. Then, after 1300, the familial ce, so rare in the thirteenth century, rapidly becomes common; its early appearances with masculine occupational surnames borne by women suggest
The third edition of the lexicographical work on the history of English language, which has been critically revised and updated, is now available. This major reference work, published in 1956, is a comprehensive dictionary of the English language, covering the period from the earliest records to the present day. The dictionary has been updated to reflect the latest developments in the field of historical linguistics, and it includes new entries and revisions to existing ones. It is an invaluable resource for scholars and students of English, as well as for anyone interested in the history of the language. The dictionary is available in both print and digital formats, and it can be accessed online through the Oxford University Press website. It is a testament to the enduring value of this work, which has become an essential tool for anyone studying or using the English language.
names in England and Wales in 1975 are not mentioned at all in the
Dictionary: DONNA and KELLY (Dunkling, p. 176) and that three of
the top fifty boys' names are also missing: CRAIG, DEAN, and WAYNE (Dunkling,
p. 179). Are these not just the names which will be of greatest interest
to a reader rather than ALBERIC, ENDMOND, or FREDEGONDE, although the
exclusion of these three and others like them is by no means advocated
here, even if they are not in a true sense "Christian"? Even if the
origin of a first name or the initial stimulus for its fashionableness lies
in the recent past, the name is worthy of inclusion. The patina of
antiquity or hallowed literary usage does not make it a better name; it is
the Registers of Births that count.

Such Registers and other listings of named infants count a great deal
with Dunkling in whose pages one would look in vain for ALBERIC, ENDMOND,
and FREDEGONDE, for First Names First—note the difference in terminology.
- presents well researched statistics in chronological order, as well as
the quaint, the curious, and the absurd. Those who are familiar with his
Guinness Book of Names will again find the refreshing comment, the
telicious turn of phrase, a sense of the authentic, as well as an eye for
the unusual. Indeed, there are quite a few areas of overlap between his
two books—the selection of topics and material, as well as in the style
of their presentation; as in the former volume the reader is again charmed
into an onomastic world in which one can match faces and names, be informed
about "link names" (names of girls formed by the addition of suffixes from
boys' names, like ANDREA, ANDREANA, ANDRENA, ANDREA, ANDRENE, ANDREVNA,
ANDRIE, ANDRINA, ANDRINE, and DANDY from ANDREW), learn that WILLIAM
was the first name of 4449 of every 10,000 male children born in 1800 but only
of 67 in 1975, read about the age-old problem of remembering names, receive
at least some hint as to some of their verbal associations, or subject
oneself to "First Name Quiz" and, of course, a hundred other things
besides. It's an anthropomorphic cornucopia.

As things stand, I shall use both Miss Wittycombe's and Mr. Dunkling's
books with profit and pleasure, as well as the latter's Scottish Christian
Names, a fine paperback publication (London and Edinburgh, Johnston and
Bacon, 1978, £1.95) which in its own way supplements the Oxford Dictionary.
For traditional scholarly sobriety and etymological detective work I shall
go to Miss Wittycombe; for enthusiastic competence and fun-filled
statistics (not a contradiction in adjecto, after all) I shall turn to
Mr. Dunkling. Such dual use seems to be an unbeatable combination. As
a frequent user, I have one wish of each of the publishers concerned: O.U.P.,
please envisage a thoroughly modernised and reset edition of the Dictionary
in the not too distant future; Dent's, please do not employ such abysmally
minute type in an index ever again. In the meantime, "contrasting and
complementary" is the phrase that comes to mind after a close reading of
the two volumes under review.

W.F.H. NICOLAISEN

K. FORSTER, Englische Familienamen aus Ortsnamen, Hans Carl Verlag,
Münzenberg, 1978, 256 pp. 24 DM.

An abstract of Dr. Forster's work has already appeared in NOMINA
(vol. 1, no. 2). Dr. Forster deals systematically with the phonetic
changes which have affected English surnames derived from place-names.
The sound changes which have occurred in the more common place-name
elements are fully discussed, and illustrated with a great number of
examples. The evidence presented justifies Dr. Forster's contention
that where the spelling and pronunciation of a locative surname differ
from those of the place-name from which the surname is derived, this is
not simply "corruption", but is explicable in terms of linguistic changes.
There are brief and useful discussions of surnames compounded from place-
names with the addition of the suffixes -man, -son, and -er, and on the
effects of folk etymology on surnames. There is also an appendix which
lists a large number of the final elements to be found in surnames derived
from English place-names, with examples of the surnames involved.
Though there is much material on the origins and evolution of surnames derived
from place-names in the work of Roaney, Bardsley, and others, Dr. Forster
is the first to treat fully the linguistic influences which were operative.
In so doing he has explored the origins of many individual surnames, and
his book will be for the future a very useful work of reference for all
those interested in the history of English surnames.

Dr. Forster's method has been to compare the modern forms of surnames,
as given in printed works from about 1800 onwards, with both present-day
and earlier place-name forms. He does not usually attempt to trace a
continuous history for surnames, either by citing a series of forms found
at various periods for any one name, or by tracing the pedigrees of
families bearing the surnames under discussion, and showing how the
families' hereditary surnames underwent changes. In general, the method
employed gives rise to few difficulties, but there are a few instances in
which it leads to statements about the origins of surnames about which there
may be reservations. The surname Dexter, for example, is derived by
Dr. Forster from the place-name Exeter; Dexter, however, is usually taken
to be an occupational name, and most early instances are from Essex,
Suffolk, and the East Midlands, an area distant from Exeter. Similarly
the surname Scrivener is said to be derived from the place-name Scriven,
an origin which is not proven. Some other cases could be given, but
there are but a small proportion of the names discussed by Dr. Forster where
there seem to be grounds for disputing the origins he gives.

RICHARD MCKINLEY
BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW


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