REFLECTIONS ON A REVERSE DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH PLACE-NAMEs

Reverse dictionaries of any kind are a rare species in lexicography; there is one for the English language (as well as one each for Russian and German, viz., M. Lehmann, Blick durch das Wörterbuch der englischen Gegenwartssprache (English subtitle: Reverse Dictionary of Present-Day English), Leipzig 1971, based on various Modern English dictionaries and word-lists.

A reverse dictionary of English place-names could be a novel contribution to English toponomastics. What can you expect from such a dictionary? Entries in a reverse dictionary are listed in reverse alphabetical order; thus the first entries in Lehmann's dictionary are a, baa, sabaa, maa, raa, etc., and the last entries are izz, tugg, tugx. His dictionary claims to be indispensable for deciphering split words in dispatches and books, when the first letters of a particular word are missing; it will be useful for the linguist working on types of word-formation and on the frequency of particular suffixes and word-terminations; it can also be a dictionary of eye-rhymes.

As to a reverse dictionary of place-names, such a work could serve similar purposes; a simple list of names arranged in reverse alphabetical order will present the frequency of all modern place-name terminations. Given the etymology of the second element of the name in addition to that list the dictionary will also show the phonological development of place-name elements in unassimilated syllables and it will indicate which place-name elements have become homophonous (or rather homographs) in that position. Having in turn a list of homograph place-name terminations the reader will be able to trace the various origins of these endings, whose etymology may be disguised and have become uniform either by regular sound changes or by folk etymology; thus modern -ington-names can be traced to their respective etymologies, viz., -an-tun (i.e. gen. sing. n-class), -ingtun, -ntun (being part of the root of the first element), etc. With a count reference with each name the geographical distribution of linguistic phenomena (morphological or phonological) can be illustrated. Such a list will also indicate which first elements go with any particular second place-name element.

Time permitting, the present writer would like to take up the task of compiling a reverse dictionary and invites any suggestions that could be helpful.

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This has been a long, hard read; at times I have only been kept going by the knowledge that everything published by Dr Fellows Jensen must be read and digested by anyone intending to keep abreast of English onomastics. The book is full of interesting and significant material, but the presentation is probably calculated to appeal more to Scandinavian than to English scholars. English readers expect something to be left to the imagination, and prefer the author to have a definite thesis. The Scandinavian tradition (at any rate as represented in onomastic studies) is that all points, even the most obvious, must be laboured, and all interpretations, even the most improbable, must be explored.

Dr Fellows Jensen's previous book, Scandinavian Place-Names in Yorkshire, was written from a definite point of view. There she accepted Professor Kenneth Cameron's findings in his work on Viking settlement in the East Midlands, and sought to demonstrate that these were valid for Yorkshire. Since then she has retreated, not so much to a different or opposing position, as to an attitude of overriding caution. One instance must suffice to demonstrate the reluctance to draw conclusions or to adopt a definite stance. On p.341, after a section which presents the results of a fascinating exercise in Domesday statistics, she says:

In summary it can be said that the assessments reveal that the English-named villas tended to be rated higher than the bc's and the bc's higher than the borps, while the villas with hybrid and scandinavianised names tended to have the same kind of assessments as the villas with English names. This is also true of the bc's in some areas. The suggestion has earlier been made that the differences in assessment might reflect differences in age, with the youngest villas having the lowest assessments. This is not the only possible explanation, however, nor even the most likely one. What the assessments actually reflect is differences in the value of the resources available to the villa. At some stages of development marginal land for grazing sheep or the supply of wood for fuel or building must have been as valuable as the best arable land. An instance of this is provided by the exceptionally high assessments of some of the borps on the Yorkshire Wolds, assessments which probably reflect their exploitation of sheep. For the dating of settlements, then, the evidence of the assessments is of limited value.

For my part I shall cheerfully accept the tables on p.338 as confirmation of the general soundness (which is not to say the 100 per cent validity) of Cameron's findings.

Professor Cameron's conclusions probably were more definite and more simple than the evidence warrants; a new synthesis usually is. But Dr Fellows Jensen seems to me to have learnt over further than the evidence requires in her determination to explore every conceivable alternative explanation to Cameron's for the presence of a dense layer of Scandinavian
names in parts of the East Midlands, though she offers no challenge to his belief that there were a great many Scandinavian peasant settlers and that there was widespread use of Scandinavian speech. Cameron concluded that it was necessary to postulate a wave of Danish immigrants to colonised areas of land which were not being cultivated by the English, and he considered that the activities of these immigrants would account for a high proportion of the names in by. The "Driftian hybrid" names he believed to be those taken by Danish soldiers, or the corps that represented later expansion of settlement, using for new farms and hamlets a word introduced by Scandinavian speakers. Dr Fellows Jensen agrees about the nature of the corps and the work of reference in this theory to the bys represent colonisation of large areas of potentially arable land. She contends that "most of the bys result either from fragmentation of old estates, with the detachment of small units of settlement from the central occupation centre, or from reclamation of land occupied by the English but subsequently deserted and allowed to run to waste".

Reclamation and colonisation are not entirely different processes, so the serious modification of Cameron's thesis consists of the emphasis placed in this study on the evidence for the splitting of large estates and the creation of new smaller units, some of which may have names in by. Attention is also drawn to evidence that some names in by are most likely to be new Scandinavian names for English villages which have been taken over by the Vikings.

As Dr Fellows Jensen points out at the beginning of her Summary (p.368), Cameron's thesis goes against the grain of recent thinking about settlement history, because it requires belief in a major expansion of settlement between c.670 and 1086. This is contrary to the tenor of "recent theories which have suggested that the Anglo-Saxons in an England that had already been extensively settled and brought under cultivation by the English and whose parochial and administrative boundaries were largely of pre-Viking and possibly pre-English origin". I am cited in the footnote to this passage as one of the authors of these recent studies, and it is true that I believe in substantial degree of continuity between pre-English and Anglo-Saxon settlement patterns. But in Introduction to the Place-Names of Berkshire, the work cited here, there is a "novel approach" (p.46) by analysing the distribution of a belt of territory in central Berkshire, where all the parish-names end in -field or -hurst. I believe this territory has been brought under cultivation comparatively late in the Anglo-Saxon period, and had it been in eastern England there might well have been some names in by and by. One of the other authors cited in this footnote is Peter Sawyer, who is the arch opponent of any thesis which postulates the formation of new settlements in the middle or late Anglo-Saxon period. Professor Cameron's views on this topic seem to me extreme, and instead of at least as much sophistication as those of Professor Cameron. If extremist views are left aside, there may be scope for an accommodation between supporters of a reasonable degree of continuity and those whose study of the linguistic evidence leads them to postulate a good deal of colonisation or reclamation of land between 870 and 1086.

Such an accommodation should perhaps be attempted in one comparatively small region at a time. Suitable areas might be a county, or one of the three divisions of Lincolnshire. Professor Cameron's methods were admirable for getting a general picture, which could be refined by more detailed work. When Dr Fellows Jensen was also looking for a broad, general picture, as in her book on Yorkshire, the application of Cameron's methods and some additional ones to another large area produced a coherent book; but when she is trying to refine earlier conclusions the choice of an entirely different area does not lead to such results. Most of her results are excellent, but the reader is a long way to know what to make of the whole.

The book is in two main parts, the slightly longer one consisting of the onomastic material of the English place-names taken by the English and the four classes of names those in by, those in borh, other Scandinavian names, and the Scandi-

navianised and hybrid names. The second main component is a discussion of the distribution and historical significance of the material. The first part will be of particular interest for those who want to document the publication of the place-name surveys of Leicestershire, Rutland and Lincolnshire. Some comments on etymologies offered in this section will be made at the end of this review.

The second major component of the book is a remarkably thorough study of the conclusions which historians have drawn or may legitimately draw from this material. Dr Fellows Jensen is particularly strong on numerical analysis, and the tables she provides to show the frequency and status of settlements with different types of names are a major contribution.

They are all useful, but perhaps the most welcome are nos. 6 and 7 (pp. 283-284) which show the frequency of personal names in place-names in tön in the East Midlands and elsewhere in England, and no. 9 (p.338) which shows Domesday assessments according to name-type. I had carefully assumed that the Brighton/Edgbaston type of name was fairly common everywhere, and I set them as a salutary fact that this is not the case. There are only two in Oxfordshire, three in Huntingdonshire and one in Surrey. I was driven to check my own analysis in The Place-Names of Oxfordshire (to confirm that there are indeed only two specimens in that county.) As Dr Fellows Jensen observes (p.282) "the element Ægan was not compounded particularly frequently with personal names in England". Perhaps I have been acutely aware of such names as Brighton and Edgbaston not because they are common but because they are rather rare.

The main aim of this essay, which occupies pp.231-352, is to explore all lines of enquiry which may throw light on the comparative dating of settlements bearing various categories of Scandinavian, Scandinavianised or hybrid names, and to draw attention to the divergent views as to the contexts for settlement in different parts of the material. The first section, Introductory, offers a summary of recent work on place-name chronology with a consideration of how this may be applied to the East Midlands counties. There are two distribution maps, one showing early Anglo-Saxon burial sites and early Anglo-Saxon place-names, the other showing tön and 1899. For these maps (and for some others in succeeding sections) I feel that the area studied is too big. The symbols are necessarily large for the scale, the dots on Map 2 having a diameter of more than a mile. Each county needs a page to itself if a more sophisticated picture is to be presented than in earlier studies. Another criticism is that I do not feel that Dr Fellows Jensen allows sufficiently for the status accorded in recent studies to topographical settlement-

names, particularly those which are derived from rivers.

Sections 2-6 of Chapter VII examine the distribution of hybrid tön, other borh', other hybrids, bys and borh, and other Scandinavian names. Section 7 is called "The significance of the Roman roads and river valleys". The statements on p.260, "With the dissolution of Romano-British society and the decline of the town, the significance of the network of roads throughout England would have been lost" and "It is certainly doubtful
whether the Roman roads would have offered particularly attractive routes
to the Viking settlers, who did not arrive in England until the roads had
been left in a state of neglect for at least four centuries, and no
command agreement. The Roman road network was important throughout
Anglo-Saxon (and much of modern) history, but even if the roads had been
only "long straight lines of overgrown agger" they might still have
influenced Viking settlement. O.G.S. Crawford has some pertinent remarks
on this in Chapter 7 of Archaeology in the Field (1953). This is not a
serious criticism of Dr Fellows Jensen's view of the Scandinavian settle-
ments, however, as I think it likely that all immigration in the late
ninth century was by agreement with the men controlling the administration
of eastern England, and immigrants would not have been choosing directions
in an uncharted land.

Section 8. "The nationality of the Scandinavian settlers," is an authoritative discussion of the evidence for West
Scandinavian settlers among the predominant Danes, and for the presence of some
Irishmen.

In Chapter VIII, "The age of the Scandinavian and scandinavised
settlement names and of the settlements they denote," the sections are
divided into two categories: Section 2 discusses "linguistic dating",
while Section 3, "Non-linguistic dating", is divided into eight subsections,
which examine documentary, historical, geographical or distributional,
topographical and historical, geographical, historical, geographical, and
archaeological evidence. Some of these subsections are divided again
into (a), (b), (c), etc. There are splendid tables and some maps of the
now familiar and always interesting type which show settlements in relation
to each other. The only section which seems to have left some pieces
unturmed is the one on "geometrical" evidence. This term refers to the
comparison of the shapes formed by the boundaries of parishes and townships.
Dr Fellows Jensen's conclusion is (p.132): "Since it seems unlikely that
the parish boundaries would be able to reveal much about the age of most of
the individual settlements ... no systematic examination of parish shapes
in the East Midlands has been made here". While I am not suggesting that
more work should have been done for the present book, I feel that it would
be very interesting indeed to have a systematic study of parish shapes in a
county or part of a county where there are Danish place-names. Here again,
a smaller area would be appropriate to such a study.

Section 4 of Chapter VIII is entitled "Summary". Some of the points
made in this have been mentioned in the earlier paragraphs of this review.
It occupies only four pages, and it does not provide a conclusive or
exhaustive summary up of the vast quantity of material in the preceding
sections. Perhaps the author is as yet too close to her work to discern
its full significance. Probably we must be given time to live with this
book and use it for reference before its true bearing on the controversial
topic of Scandinavian settlement is clear. My feeling at the moment is
that Dr Fellows Jensen's position is much closer to that of Professor Cameron
than to that of Professor Sawyer.

It remains to offer some points of the type which always suggest
themselves to a toponymist when reading the work of a colleague:

p.14: "OE cifice never seems to have been compounded with byrig
elsewhere." Chibbury, Shropshire, Cythbyrig in ASC, has been overlooked.

pp.18, 53: Harrowby is derived from OE Hereagard, pers. name.
It would accord better with the author's preferences to note that Hereagard
'arm enclosure' is a likely source of Harrow, Hants.

Margaret Gelling

pp. 42, 45, 82: Corby, Earby, Scraboys, Silkby. It seems unlikely
that OE *corf, *bar, or *scrofe were living words when by names were coined,
and *molec is a rare term. A number of other instances could be cited in
which the author's preference for appellatives rather than personal names as
first elements leads to some unconvincing etymologies. That for Cosby
(OF cosi, Scand. kos, 'kiss' used in an onomatopoetic sense for the stream
running along the village street) is one such. The fact that a postulated
Scandinavian personal name is not recorded independently in Lincolnshire
or Yorkshire is held to be against some derivations given by previous
authorities, see, for example, the discussion of Nunby on p.60; but it
does not seem to me unreasonable to assume that there were many Danish
settlements with names which did not get into any record. In fact I should
expect there to be less complete records of the personal names of immigrant
Danish farmers than of the vocabulary available for place-name formation at
this rather late date. A number of etymologies which rely on toponyms
rather than personal names are very convincing - those for Gaddesby,
Grainsby, Kelby, Markby, Orsby, Ranby (LS), Rigsbys, Saleby, Saltby, Skagby,
Strubby, Thimbleby, Wragby, Stainsby and Thurby in particular. For others,
such as Sleasby, Nunby and Scawby, the topographical explanation seems
rather farced, but this may only be a matter of taste. The discussion
of Galby on p.48 ignores the occurrence of OE gal in place-names, and that
of Ratby on pp.63-4 omits mention of the possibility that the first element is
Ratan, the Romano-British name of Leicester.

p.89: Bridge Norton should be Brize Norton.

p.152, 294: Bourne (UK) is wrongly identified with Burem ASHills 10.
See The Early Charters of the Thames Valley (Leicester 1979), p.189.

p.153: Flagg. Another possibility is the dative plural of OE *flag
'flog-stone'.

p.160: Scartho. Cormorants are not likely to be a regular sight at
a spot three miles from the coast.

p.177: The discussion of toun seems to me less sharply in focus than
most sections of the book. Dr Fellows Jensen does not include 'estate'
among the meanings, nor does she allow for names in toun replacing earlier
English names of a quite different type. She says "The names whose
specific is the name of a DB tenant ... or a Norman pers.n. may in some cases
simply represent the substitution of a pers.n. for an older element to mark
a change of lord or tenant." We have better evidence, for which v. The
Place-Names of Berkshire Part III, pp. 823ff., for the replacement by
memorial names in toun of earlier names like Peacebyrig and Collingham,
which did not have Toun as final element.

p.309: "the name of Auborne ... is an archaic topographical name that
can have been transferred to the settlement at any period prior to the
compilation of DB." As noted above, Dr Fellows Jensen does not take account
of recent work which demonstrates the probability that names of this type are
among the very earliest English settlement-names.

p.372: "There is no documentary evidence for the purchase of land by
the Vikings from the English." The Oxfordshire charter by which King
Athelred sells Beckley and Horton to a Dane called Toti might be considered
to be such evidence; see The Early Charters of Eastern England, Leicester
1966, pp. 190-1.
Dr. Piroth's thesis (which was reported in an English abstract in Nomina 1 (1977), pp.27-31) is based on the assumption that there is in England and in northern Europe a body of place-name material which has been conclusively identified and classified by philologists, and which is therefore available for comparison between the two regions and use in support of the historical hypotheses. From a comparison between names in England and on the Continent he claims to have established migration-age connections between certain parts of Europe and certain areas in England. The hypothetical connections depend on a name for the name, or closely related names, and the thesis must stand or fall on the success or failure to establish that the place-names cited in fact contain these personal names.

As regards the English material, it was unwise to assume that a definitive study of names in -ing was available. Dr. Piroth has taken his examples mainly from E. Ekwall's English Place-Names in -ing, published in 1962, which is the second edition of a work first published in 1923. This does not provide the most modern overall view of the subject, and in detail it needs checking against works published since 1962 - a formidable body of literature. Such checking has not been systematically carried out. On pp.16-17 (where the first example of a place-name material in the book is set out), Dr. Piroth lists a number of Middle English names Seneings from BCS 34, but in the earliest spelling for Sennings Berkshire, and Ekwall's statement that the province referred to in the charter lay north of the Thames is a mistake. This could have been noted either by checking the text of the charter or by looking up Sennings in The Place-Names of Berkshire. BCS 34 is a genuine charter, but it is clear from the documentation cited for other names listed on pp.16-17 that Dr. Piroth, like Professor Ekwall, does not attempt to distinguish between genuine and forged Anglo-Saxon charters. The manner in which the failure to evaluate Anglo-Saxon charters may lead to a wrong view of the evidence is seen in the discussion of Benington, Oxfordshire. On p.34 Dr. Piroth follows Ekwall in citing as the earliest spelling Beninginge von c.730; but this is from a forged charter (BCS 95) and it is doubtful whether it has any validity. Probably the post-Conquest Forger added -ing to Beninginge because he felt this made an elegant Latinisation. Other spellings (including Beningingdon from a genuine charter of 887) demonstrate that the name is an -ing -ating formation. But this would not discount Piroth's evidence, since he does not distinguish between -ingas and -ing(e), or between -ingas and the rare -ingyn (as in Easington, Staffordshire) and the quite different formations in -ingyn. But a critical reader wishing to assess the likelihood of Benington having a significant connection with the Dutch name Beninghe-groot would benefit by knowing whether the English name is more likely to be an -ingyn or an -ingyn.

Dr. Piroth has taken from all classes of name which contain the syllable -ing- examples in which he considers the first element to be a personal name. The reader who wishes to make a critical assessment of the material will have to look for names from plural and make his own assessments about such matters as whether -ingyn names were used in England early enough to have significant connections with continental names. But this lumping together of all names in -ing might just have been acceptable if one could rely on Dr. Piroth to give a sound opinion as to whether the first elements of the place-names he includes are in fact personal names. He seems to have chosen English names mainly on the grounds that he has possible continental parallels for them. Many of his English specimens are not considered by modern place-name specialists (or indeed by Professor Ekwall) to contain personal names. On p.16 Dr. Piroth lists English names in Bellington without note which suggests that recent German publications consider these to derive from personal names; but it is not stated that Ekwall considered the singular names in the list to contain 'modern' used in a topographical sense, and some English authorities would prefer to derive the plural and the habitative examples from this word also. More startling is the inclusion of Clavering Essex and Docking Norfolk. For both names there are good Old English spellings (not derived from forged charters like Beningings-vill) which indicate that the names are genuine, and the natural etymologies are 'place near flower/dock grown'; but Dr. Piroth sweeps aside both the Old English spellings and Ekwall in brief notes which declare that there is no way to plausibly use personal names as base. Eling in Berkshire is listed on p.50, and a reference is given to The Place-Names of Berkshire, but no mention is made of the rejection in that work of derivation from a personal name. Eling probably means 'place there are eels'. Skipping to Ms., I note that the list includes two examples of Wratting, which should be classed with Docking and Clavering as an -ing formation from a plant-name, and Manteigue Berkshire, where he is obliged to reject all opinions later than Skeat (1911) in order to postulate a personal name as base.

It is possible that the authorities who supervised and examined this thesis were better informed about the continental names cited than about the English ones, but an English reader cannot be expected to take for granted that the continental names have been chosen on sounder principles. There is no way a reader could judge the validity of Dr. Piroth's connections about migration-period connections between England and the Continent without first checking all his material, which would mean virtually doing the work again. If I were considering this I should want to adopt different methods, placing much greater emphasis on the distinctions between the various categories of place-name involved.

In fact it is doubtful whether a useful comparison of English and continental names can be made until much more critical work has been done on the material. For England we are greatly in need of a Ph.D. thesis devoted to separating plural names in -ingas from singular names in -ing(e). The whole question of the extent to which personal names enter into place-names is hotly disputed, and it is noteworthy that Piroth's bibliography includes no works by Dr. Gillian Fellows Jensen or Dr. Gillis Kristensson, both of whom have written on this topic in the last decade.

One can only ask those who direct postgraduate work in German universities to note that English place-name studies have not reached the stage where students (especially uncritical ones) should be encouraged to make mechanical analyses of material taken from secondary sources. I do not think that this thesis would have been passed in an English university.

MARGARET GELLING

This is an ably edited and neatly presented collection of papers (impressive for their celebration of scholarship and occasion, and some contribution to knowledge as well) with an eloquent and perceptive Introduction by Kristjan Eldjarn, scholar and statesman.

The Proceedings are organised in three parts, reflecting three aspects of the Vikings, their life and times, viz. the Viking at sea, the Viking in the British Isles and the Viking at home (the Viking in Western Russia is rather under-represented save in the archaeological papers), 1. Scale and Ships: Viking Seamen: in the Light of Literature and Archaeology (‘Seamen’ not in its more usual current usage here), pp. 21-77, five papers, 2. Scandinavian Influence on Language and Place-Names in the British Isles, pp. 79-130, six papers, 3. Viking Society in Scandinavia, Evidence of Settlement and Administration, pp. 131-176, five papers.

Section 1 contains Peter Sawyer, Wics, Kings and Vikings, pp. 23-31, Ole Crumlin-Pedersen, The Ships of the Vikings, pp. 32-41, Peter Hallberg, The Ship - Reality and Image in Old Norse Poetry, pp. 42-56, Peter Foote, Wrecks and Rhymes, pp. 57-66 (it is a credit to these and their subject that they don’t overlap more), and Lars Hellqvist and Olof Orsmo and the Western North Sea. These papers deal with the Viking ship as an idea in imagery and allusion in scaldic verse, as an element in a lifestyle, as an artifact, and as an archaeological object. Peter Foote’s article indicates the need for, and urges work towards, a critical glossary of nautical terms in the scaldic poetry.

The most interesting in this set of papers, to the non-student, are Sawyer’s and Hellberg’s contributions. The former discusses the considerable significance of the element wic in place-names, usefully recalls W. Vogel’s article of 1935 (Hunsiche Geschichtsblatter 60, pp. 5-48) on the etymological relationship of this to & Viking, Saxon Vikings, and might have made more of this relationship as a useful image of the forces driving the Viking impulse. As Kristjan Eldjarn observes in his introductory paper, ‘the work Viking simply means pirate, and not all Scandinavians of the Viking Age were pirates, thank God. Nevertheless the name is not entirely unjustified, in spite of the irritation one may sometimes be tempted to feel owing to its misuse and over-use.’ Hellqvist traces the Swedish place-words which contain elements of the poetical nautical vocabulary of the Vikings, especially words for skippers and leaders - herra, of 4n (made), with a map (p. 75) showing the distribution (mainly coastal or riverside of course) of place-names alluding to the old Viking captains. It would be interesting to know if such a thing might be done for Britain.


All these are very good. But most important for us just now are Hald’s and Gelling’s. To single out these papers means no disrespect to the others within the space of this Journal. The evaluation of the place-name and field-name evidence for the location, intensity, characterisation and influence of the Scandinavian settlements in the half-dozen or so countries of the North-west Europe archipelago, is a continuing industry and all six contributors are the people most seen to be doing it. Here we have a good up-to-the-minute report to venture my life in the business of sorting out Scandinavians and Celts in the Isle of Man. Margaret Gelling’s paper, however, lays down some pretty good guidelines across the minefield, and this is going to be one of the classic papers.

Hald’s demolition of the long-standing distinction of the elements Du, Pulm, ON helmr, by which since the 1920’s we have followed Dovell in determining that Du means Danes and Pulm meaning Norsemen, orders and demands a new kind of analysis. Yet another classic.


Of these, although, again, all are excellent in their particular sphere, name-studies are particularly touched by John Kousgaard Sørensen’s and Svile Øhrnson’s pieces. Sørensen gives us a first-class discussion of the Danish administrative five-region system, kind, hard, and various reductions of hered. This article, and those in Section 2, ought to be read immediately before or after the same scholar’s paper, ‘Place-Names and Settlement History’, in Names, Words, and Graves: Early Medieval Settlement, ed., Puth Freytag-Bornemann, 1979, pp. 1-33. He is showing us one of our foremost theoreticians. Øhrnson provides a range of footnotes and reference to technical journals in historical geography which will serve as a useful guide to this reviewer who has to deal with ‘runes-fields’ and the like. The paper and by Greta Arwidsson are at once encouraging and admonitory. They show how much we have in common in the way and the work of relating terrain and division and nomenclature; they challenge us to keep pace. The section ends on the true Viking note and rounds off the collection, with Charlotte Blindheim telling out the lost, trade-goods, small-change, and presents brought home, that turn up in Norway. She puts Kaupang (King Alfred’s Othera’s Sirengesheal) into its multi-faceted context. The map on p. 172 of insular metalwork finds in Westfold Fylke will make a useful extra aid to the teacher of Old English who reads Othera’s account.

But that good illustration is exceeded by Figure 1 (p.158) of Greta Arwidsson’s article, the very symbol of the tremendous (and sustained) energy of the Viking tradition, a rune-stone (U 947, Falebro, Denmark parish, Uppland) whose abiding presence is, itself, an assertion of the continuing values of Old Scandinavia. Indeed, this strong, erect, and graceful monument, set out in the snowy fields of Sweden might well be seen as a symbol of the venerable but still vigorous northern seat of learning which is congratulated by, and is to be congratulated for, this book.

JOHN McNEAL ODGSON

With name-studies currently making vast strides, this unsung, indeed uncorrected, bargain-price re-issue of a book now nearly fifteen years old raises the question what popularization should mean.

Inevitably, some points here now need annotation. Some tentative observations have since been confirmed, as with 'OE women's names show a stronger tendency to persist than those of men' (p.106; cf. Speculum LIII, 22, 1958, p.33). But with the note that 'the King's pipe rolls' (p.103) and 'Pipe Roll show a more old-fashioned distribution than those of the 1148 Winchester survey' (p.102; cf. NOMINA III, 13-14, and see also below). Reaney's own wish to see the various 'national' name-vocabularies elucidated by further basic research (see, for instance, pp. 99, 118 and 130) is gradually being fulfilled, for instance, by B. Seltsén with his work on East-Anglian materials and especially by Gillian Fellows Jensen and by John Inlay with theirs on the Scandinavian element in English. Likewise, the chronology of surname-fixing, the appearance of forms in -a and in -ano, the nickname-use of terms of rank and occupation, and women's surnames could all now be treated more precisely in the light of the thriving English Surname Series, and especially Richard McKinley's contributions. These are also beginning to reveal local name-variations.

Less happily, some material that passed muster in 1967 no longer does so. Continental background studies newly available, Flemish as well as French, are putting post-Conquest English naming into clearer perspective. Admittedly, some blurring of focus had arisen from notions such as 'Until well into the thirteenth century, at least, French was the language of all educated people, whilst the lower classes spoke English' (p.178). But the main blank concerns the dependence, now so much easier to trace, of English naming-patterns on continental ones: thus, the way that the once-dominant Continental-Ceramic forms lost favour, especially for women's names, to 'Christian' ones was duly noted but nowhere linked with French and Flemish patterns; and the -t, -n, and -l diminutives were treated on the same footing as the characteristically English abbreviations like Dave, Gibbe and Hobbe, with only stray notes acknowledging the Former as imported and sometimes specifically Picard in form (e.g., pp.155/6, 156, 157). Newly available English material includes the twelfth-century Canterbury rent-colls published by William Urry in 1967; these have disproved several assertions, such as that in Allwells the 'earliest' documents show 'French or Latin' propitiations (p.49) and that the 'earliest' records of Middle English occupational terms and nicknames show 'French' definite articles (p.34). Most importantly, Olof von Fellitzens's Winchester onomastic published in 1976 now provides more accurate statistics of the landholders' names TRE, 

C. 1115 and in 1148: whereas here the occurrences of Old English / Scandinavian / French forms were estimated as: TRE = 173 / 6 / 20, c. 1115 - 85 / 10 / 167, and 1148 - 93 / 79 / 596 (p.107), von Fellitzens, who subdivides the categories more subtly, gives figures equivalent to: TRE = 249 / 24 / 149, c. 1115 - 68 / 11 / 164, and 1148 - 102 / 67 / 167 (Winton Domesday, p.185). Likewise F. King's Lynn 1166 and for Newark 1177 the corresponding statistics, here given respectively as: 81 / 50 / 85 and 75 / 50 / 167, might be amended to: 47 / 25 / 117 (p.186). On the latter, and for the Winton Domesday, more sensitive analyses would separate out the women's names, which show the usual Old English bias already mentioned. Of course, in judging as in compiling all such statistics some leeway must be allowed for ambiguous forms; but the discrepancies here seem too great to be thus explained away.

Calculation was indeed nowhere this book's strong point, as further appeared in the attempts to measure medieval population-movements by means of toponymic surnames. All such attempts have, as Peter McKechnie's has recently shown, most face the problems created by the non-uniqueness of some 60% of place-name forms (see Economic History Review XXXII, 167-82, esp. 169-70, and also Local Historian XIII, 88-97). Even though himself originally a toponymist rather than an anthropnomist, Reaney here followed in a dogmatic methodology, which deprived of full weight his comments on medieval immigration into Norwich and into London. In this sphere too McKinley's work and that of George Redmonds have been contributing towards more accurate understanding.

On a human level must be forgiven a writer who died in the very year of publication, especially one grappling with such a plethora of often ambiguous detail; but compassion cannot cure the prematurity of a book embarked upon not only in awareness of how much basic research remained to be done but also with imperfect command of the data accessible. Points are laboured which no sensible reader would contest. Alternative etymologies are sometimes proposed without cross-reference, as for Barker (see pp. 177 and 209) and for Fuszek (see pp. 190 and 201), and for Brock even within a single paragraph (see pp. 263-4). Some material might have been better arranged, with trades, for instance, grouped according to sense more closely to the root (Incidentally, other authors, such as Groom, have often listed, the -wife-compounds parallel to those in -man seem to be omitted) and with nicknames marshalled in closer accord with their chapter-headings. Time and again the last control betrayed itself syntactically, often in context of significant significance such as the most popular name "... until the end of the thirteenth century when he gives place to John" (p.131) and "the conspicuous exception of the dog and the horse, though these, too, were once nicknames" (p.262), as well as a reference to 'intermarriage between men of English and Danish descent' (p.329).

These flaws run together and merge with the major one carried over from the earlier Dictionary of British Surnames (for criticism of which both Redmonds and by von Fellitzens, Conference at Esriangen, pp. 78-9 and 83-4), where the method had been baldly to cite, without preference of proving any linkage, various medieval forms supposed to underlie the present-day surnames. This book therefore abounds in unsupported assertions, such as 'The accusative Facon [from the CN name Falco] may sometimes be the origin of Falcon, though this is usually from the name of the bird' (p.159; cf. the similar misuses of 'obviously', 'usually', 'invariably' in comments like those on Harkus - p.3, Stirrup - p.45, Drewes - p.138, and so on), with no indication of any basis of assessment. Hardest to forgive is the authoritative tone in which the uncertainties are propounded.

Methodology was further undermined by flaws more basic still. Sources were inadequately criticized, with little note taken either of the ortho- graphical characteristics or of the social limitations presented by certain classes of document. Indeed, spelling and pronunciation were often got a slapdash treatment. Name-study being a branch of philology, ortho- graphical and phonetic checks are bypassed only at peril; yet here, perhaps to propitiate the 'general' reader, phonetic notation was eschewed and
spelling treated cavalierly (an occasional yogh pops up unannotated; ye is several times blandly printed for pe; [i.e. cite it without explanation as a form of -wright - p. 207, and OE y], together with its assorted reflexes, is mentioned casually, with no definition attempted - p. 30). That 'general' reader must often have been reduced to contriving credo quia impossibile est; but, worse, the lack of rigour often enshrined its author. Time and again disparate forms were collocated without a hint of how the modern one might have evolved, in defiance of regular phonological and substitutional patterns, from the medieval: thus, OE boker 'flax-dresser' is suggested as an alternative etymon for Booker (p. 197); admittedly, HOD encourages confusion: Bunney is attributed to OFr. hugne (p. 11 and 297), Cowle(g) to (N)Co! rather than to 'hood' (p. 194), Estridge directly to OFr. estrées (p. 50); but cf. Norfolk Archaeology XXXVI, 60), Book to oak (p. 50); but, pronunciation apart, cf. Fr. Cornelli from the same avian group), Soannes to son (p. 81), and so on. Laxity is compounded by inconsistency: some unco-ordinated alternative etymologies have already been quoted, and others include that of Jekyll, which on p. 148 is attributed to Old Breton jehnel but on p. 149 to Judithel. Similar vagueness vitiates some attempts to link apparently toponyms surnames with specific places, a process tricky enough even when phonology is respected (see, for instance, pp. 45-6). It must all bewilder any tyro anthroponymist.

Yet, before digging this pit for himself as well as for his readers, Reseney had most admirably explained how, for all surnames except those of a few privileged families, oral transmission had been the rule and that its laws must therefore be respected.

So carping a review may have given an impression that this is a useless book. Far from it: for a critical reader qualified and willing to make independent checks it offers inspiring hints (see the second paragraph above) as well as good principles and often-illuminating detail; and at least one recent monograph would have been the better of more diligent attention to it. In its endeavours to link naming-practices with social history it is salutary as well as admirable. What it is not is a safe guide for that 'general' public for name-studies whose existence is attested by the queries and theories so often canvassed in letters and notes published in magazines. Of course popularization must not be delayed until a subject be codified to full scholarly satisfaction (if indeed that ever happens): workers in related fields such as genealogy and local history must know both what we can tell them and, more urgently, what we need them to tell us. That is the point: wisdom lies in not trying to devise 'answers' when none as yet exist but in admitting ignorance and going on to define it. Had they been served up plain, as 'Contributions Towards' surname-history, the collections used here and in DSG would have been invaluable; each time the error lay in aspiring to an unjustifiable degree of codification.

CECILY CLARK

This is the fifth edition of a work which first appeared from Helicon, Dublin, in 1964. (The title A Guide to Irish Surnames was always used on the title page). The present volume is a sequel to the very popular book by Sir Robert Matheson in that he established the original Irish names of a vast number of surnames belonging to the native Irish surname type and also the anglicizations of Anglo-Norman names. Matheson had distinguished more than 2000 Irish surnames and listed them with their numerous local variants as used in the last decade of the last century. Maclysgath has raised the total to more than 4000 surnames and in this work there has tried to tackle the problem of listing names alphabetically which sometimes appear with and sometimes without the prefixes O and Mac. Woulfe avoided this problem because his primary list is based on Irish spellings which retain the original Gaelic prefix. The more recent anglicized forms with or without prefix are to be sought in a preliminary reverse index to his basic list. Maclysgath, however, takes the English spelling as the basis for his list, adding the Irish spelling after this where the name is of Irish derivation or has an established Irish form. This makes it easier for readers with no Irish to use the book without consulting a reverse index, as they must do with Woulfe, but it highlights the question of the prefixes. In the present reviewer's opinion the scheme used by Dr Maclysgath in his first edition - the Guide to Irish Surnames was superior to that used in subsequent editions down to that here reviewed, in the Guide the prefix, whether bracketed to indicate frequent dropping or not, was thrown out in a separate column from the main body of the names, which made the book much easier to consult than the present edition and its immediate predecessors in which O-names, Mac-names and non-prefix names are jumbled together in a single list which appears to jump about the alphabet between M and whatever letter follows the prefix. If the book reaches another edition, which is highly likely, consideration might be given to the desirability of reverting to the 1964 lay-out of the material.

One larger question remains to be discussed: is this or any other work yet published really a record of all the surnames of Ireland, however good it may be when compared to the scanty and uneven representation of Irish names in a book like Roe'smen's Dictionary of British Surnames? Each of the scholars mentioned above has built on the work of his predecessors but none has really got down yet to assembling a complete list of all the surnames of whatever origin that actually occur in the whole of Ireland. The material for such a list exists in the electoral registers for both political entities in Ireland but so far only the surnames of the eleven northern counties - excluding the counties of Belfast and Londonderry - have been abstracted and, of these, county lists for only three counties have been published so far. The lists published by Dr Brian Turner in 1974 and 1975 give over 1400 surnames for Leitrim, over 2000 for Fermanagh and over 3200 for Tyrone. Naturally, there is overlap between one county and another but it is already clear that if county lists were compiled for each of the 32 counties the total would be far in excess of the 4000 surnames in Dr Maclysgath's collection. His coverage is geographically uneven, as a glance at his map will immediately confirm, and one gets the impression that while native surnames are well represented many well-established names of intrusive origin fail to appear. In comparing Dr Turner's Tyrone list with the present volume we find under the first three letters of the alphabet just under 200 names - not counting minor spelling variants and variants written with or without final s - that are not included in Dr Maclysgath's book, while taking the first 120 Mac-surnames in Turner's list, so as to ensure representation of names of Irish origin, one third of these do not occur in Maclysgath's list. Among known surnames from east Ulster - many belonging to individuals whose the present reviewer knows personally - the following do not occur in Dr Maclysgath's book: Bean, Blue, Bonagu, Boomer, Bragagridge, Capper, Clotworthy, Clulow, Essary, Farrant, Fulllove, Gabby, Hifle, Holack, Lethbre, Luckn, Lawden/Lawren, McLumpha, McNerney, Moha, Mahirt, Milchen, Milsoop, Miskins, Minoons, Munney/Nummy, Orange, Pink, Presho, Refaunse, Ringland, Sandford, Sangisoil, Scarlett, Shuflebottom, Titterington, Trish, Trotan/Troughton, Truedale, Wiwem, Wadsworth, Wadrop, Wassen, Watterson, Yannarell, Zedecde.

The Surnames of Ireland, good though it is, is not yet anything like a complete collection of all the surnames of Ireland. What we still need are the following things:

1. The abstraction from the electoral lists of all surnames in the 21 counties not covered by the Ulster survey of eleven counties, now almost complete and due to be published in about two-and-a-half years of work. These eleven counties contain two-fifths of Ireland's population, so the remaining three-fifths could probably be covered in five or ten years if resolutely tackled in hand and organized from the three colleges of the National University with student assistance; Dublin could in the first instance be omitted for the same kind of reasons that Belfast has so far been omitted.

2. County lists for all 32 counties should be then compiled, followed by a composite surname list for all Ireland.

3. A list of spelling variants of all surnames should be drawn up similar to that made by Matheson but covering the much larger number of surnames we now know to exist.

4. A system of surname classification by frequency of distribution should be worked out for all surnames used in Ireland whether they are of native or intrusive origin.

In establishing a comprehensive onomasticon of surnames occurring in Ireland the foundations laid by Dr Maclysgath's work will be invaluable.

G.B. ADAMS
These two booklets are part of the 'Scottish Connection' series, which Blackwoods launched a few years ago. Although they are intended for popular readership, the books in this series are written by well-established writers and scholars, often specialists in their particular fields. For example, David Murison's contribution to this series, 'The Guid Scots Tongue' is both scholarly and readable, and is exactly what one would expect from a man who was until recently editor of the Scottish National Dictionary. David Dorward's credentials are somewhat less imposing, perhaps, since he is described in both booklets as being 'an administrator among scholars' and occasionally aspiring to being a scholar among administrators at St. Andrews University'. He admits that his onomastic studies form part of his recreation, which is no discredit to him.

Despite the numerous drawings by that doyen of popular Scottish illustrators, John MacKay, these two booklets contain a good deal of useful and easily-accessible information, aimed very much at the reader who knows nothing whatsoever about either subject. The place-names book deals with the most common elements alphabetically, and displays a competent knowledge of derivation, with a fair amount of humour. Sadly, Dorward's Gaelic renderings occasionally betray his ignorance of the language, such as cor an choire a' air ('put the kettle on') when any Gaelic speaker would say cor an choire a' ghear (p. 11) and his mis-spellings gobhar for ghabhar (p. 9).

Scrutiny by a Gaelic scholar would have avoided such simple mistakes which for this reviewer rather spoiled what is essentially a very competent little book. There is a brief chapter on further reading, which is also accurate and practical.

The booklet on Scottish surnames covers about 400 names, mostly those which occur most frequently in Scotland, but also including names which had famous bearers, or those which illustrate unusual historical features. Again, the historical background seems accurate, and the style is as pacy as in the place-name booklet. However, similar inaccuracies in the Gaelic translations of names, like mac gille bhuidh for mac gille bhudhe and mac gille rhuadh for mac gille ruadh (p. 37) mar what is otherwise a useful publication. A list of the 100 commonest surnames in Scotland is appended. Sadly, there is no reading list or bibliography.

Both of these booklets are good value for money, and are undoubtedly good for the lightweight end of the market, but if they run to second editions, it would be good to see the Gaelic renderings corrected.

IAN A. FRASER
for those interested in English personal-names is however not as a source of name-spellings on which to found an etymology -- as such it is rather late -- but rather as one more source of information for the biography of individuals within a limited social context, such biography being essential for a proper study of personal-name usage at different times. Usages capable of being studied at the aid of such bibliographical material include those with regard to women's surnames before and after marriage; the use of aliases; and the development of a particular byname into an hereditary surname, either as a temporary or a permanent phenomenon. Items 91, 147, and 218 reveal, for example, that the family name of John Farnham, one of Bishop Beaufort's familiares, was Cristeau (his brothers being called Richard, Robert, and William Cristeau respectively) and that John had presumably acquired his alias because of his employment in the bishop's service at Farnham Castle, of which he became doorkeeper in 1414; also the fact that his wife Agnes had two sons called John and Thomas Algoz suggests that she had previously been married to someone whose surname was Algoz. Item 447 reveals something of the choice of fore-names among a family of unfree status (natali) in the manor of Chelton, Hants, in 1488: here one member of the family of Aungnell or Aungnoll has the same fore-name as his grandfather, two others the same one as their respective fathers, and another the same one as his brother (all common occurrences in medieval Winchester families). Among the persons of note who are named as office-holders, lessees of cathedral estates, or as witnesses are leading citizens of Winchester such as Mark le Fayre (five times Mayor between c. 1398 and 1414 and several times M.P.); Thomas Chaucer, who was probably the son of Geoffrey Chaucer and was granted the office of constable of Taunton Castle in 1406; and the chronicler Thomas Rudbourne (author of the Historia Major Wintonensis). Dr Greatrex is however wrong in giving, in item 310, n.7 and on p.249, Cotton Cala. A.15 as the manuscript of this work; Galba A.15 is the Epitome, a summary of the Historia Major, and probably by John of Exeter, while Rudbourne's work survives in two manuscripts, Lambeth Palace 183 and Corpus Christi College Cambridge 350.

Two general quibbles may be made about presentation. Firstly, the (very useful) notes are not easy to consult, printed as they are in a block at the end of the text. Secondly, the map of priory estates is not drawn to the standard one might expect, being apparently reproduced from one drawn with a felt-tip pen, having two places spelled wrongly ('Houghton' for Houghton, and 'Crendal' for Crondall) and a key irrelevant to the present volume. These apart, the volume is carefully edited, with very few proofing errors and at an attractive price. It augurs well for the success of the new Hampshire Record Series.

ALEXANDER RUMBLE


The third volume of the Hampshire Record Series makes available a group of documents of substantial value to historians of Hampshire, to scholars with a general interest in the medieval royal forests, and to students of medieval place-names and personal names. The documents calendared here include records of Forest Proceedings (including some material relating to other Hampshire forests), Inquests and Accounts, Rentals and Surveys of some of the great millwicks, and registers of the Hampshire lay subsidy roll of 1327-8. The edition includes an Introduction, two maps, three Appendices (giving selected transcripts, extracts from the published Pipe Rolls, and a list of officers of the New Forest), a glossary of technical terms, and two indexes, one of persons and places, the other of subjects. The maps are of a good size, and are clearly drawn, one showing the boundaries and millwicks of the New Forest at about 1:50,000, and the other showing the villis listed in the subsidy roll. It is a pity, however, that room could not be found for a map indicating all the identifiable New Forest localities named in the documents. The Introduction discusses, amongst other things, the relationship between common law and forest law, the scope and composition of the forest courts, and the extent and exploitation of the Forest. There are also a few remarks on personal names and place-names.

There is a wealth of names in the Calendar, including evidence for innumerable place-names that are not to be found in Domesday Book or in Ewwall's Dictionary of English Place-Names. One informative entry in the 1280 Pleas of the Forest (Calendar item no. 195) reads:

'It is presented that the abbot of Beaulieu has newly made a certain pond outside the king's wood of Suthle, and has enclosed a certain water so that it has overflowed upon the king's land for five furlongs in length and half a furlong in width to the damage of the forest and all the country, and by the water they destroyed the road to a marlip to the damage of the will of Badesle. The abbot attends and shows warrant therefore he is acquitted.'

Here we have a sufficiently early form of the minor place-name Souley (in South Baddesley) to provide an etymology, and also an account of the origin of the modern Souley Pool, which is indeed over half a mile long. I think it is also worth mentioning New Forest place-names that bear the mark of disafforestation in the affix purlieu: Brune's Purle, Dibden Purle, Holle Purle, and Ogden's Purle. The scope of the Calendar apparently ends at too early a date for the affixes to occur in the Calendar documents but Mr Stagg points out the use of the term as a generic in a royal document of 1305 and discusses its meaning (Introduction p.35). The term is not in Smith's Place-Name Elements.

A consideration of the anthroponymy of the New Forest would require more space than a review allows, and must await a more suitable occasion for full examination in depth, but I should like to respond briefly to Mr Stagg's own remarks in the Introduction. First, Mr Stagg makes the point that 'a comparison between the occurrence of names included in the Subsidy Roll (597-69) and those contained in the other documents, suggests that within the New Forest very few families can have escaped documentation and that
the record is therefore reasonably complete' (p.35). I cannot understand
the function of the subsidy roll in this calculation. In general, the
county subsidy rolls recorded only a small proportion of the households
of a vill, and not even all of the wealthier ones. This seems to be as
true of the New Forest subsidy lists as any others. The extent for
Lyndhurst (c.1300; Calendar item no.402-7) gives 43 tenants, roughly half
of those recorded by the hire of reeves, whereas the subsidy list for Lyndhurst
(1327-8; Calendar item no.557) records only 13 persons. Perhaps I have
misunderstood Mr Stagg, but in no way can this subsidy roll be used to
gauge the completeness with which other documents record the names of
New Forest families. Since there are no extants for any of the New Forest
balliwick records, I would reach the opposite conclusion to Mr Stagg,
that a substantial number of New Forest families are probably not docu-
mented in the Calendar.

Second, Mr Stagg observes that the surnames 'in most cases appear to
be hereditary although there are some aliases and other exceptions' (p.35).
Having studied the Calendar closely, I am convinced he is right, and I hope
to justify this conclusion in print some time in the near future, as part of
a general discussion of New Forest surnames. Third, Mr Stagg comments
on the problem of identifying the same name in different spellings. This
is a difficulty which always faces the conscientious indexer of medieval
names, who cannot be expected to have the necessary philological expertise
to make the best decision in every case. The matter is further complicated
by the unreliability of scribes. The earlier Forest Proceedings in
particular seem to give a fair number of mistaken forms, either original to
the documents themselves or through the process of transcription for the
Calendar. The name-student will find some doubtful groupings in the index
of names, such as Army grouped with Arren, Asleman with Selyman, and
Doggecheri with Doggetheiri, Doggefeal, and Doggeved, but given the diffi-
culties, Mr Stagg has done an excellent job, providing cross-references
for all forms grouped under the same head, listing under each New Forest
vill-name the surnames of all persons associated with that vill, and
identifying New Forest localities with an O.S. grid-reference wherever
possible. The index is admirably full and to a high standard of accuracy.
I have noticed only one omission: Robert son of Andrew (item 396). A few
identifications are missed: Brut (162 et passim) should have been grouped with
Brot; Alreschute (438 'unidentified') should have been identified as
Aldershot in Hampshire. Mr Stagg has also shown excellent judgement in
the deciphering of name-spellings, and I have come across only a handful of
doctrinal renderings, most of which are no doubt the fault of the scribe.
The surname Atte (318) should probably read Ace (a Norman personal name);
the son of AIs (p.58) would make better sense as the son of Alot (a diminutive
of Norman Alain, Alace); William Askevill (65) is surely an error for
William Askervil (as in 64); Ellis le Capet' of Sharprix (66) should
certainly be read as Ellis le Capi (cf. Ellis le Caret' of Sharprix in
69); atte Confold (584) should be read atte Confold; Dauine (584) should
read Duine ('Duine Emma'); Dance (327) should read Douce (personal name
Dauze, Dauze); Odiern (28) should be Ordeon (personal name Opdern);
le Estreym (71) is surely for le Estreym (Mr 'scribe'); Goudedorum (593)
should read Godedorum ('good groom'); Ellis le Outier of Minstead (64) is
better read as Ellis le Outier (cf. Elyam le Kutier 50); Walter Samold (481)
is rather Walter Samold ('Usma Maud', as at 482, 483, 499); and le Thrui
(61) is perhaps for le chueil.

by hounds and huntsmen across a background photograph of a wooded part of
the New Forest. The idea is repeated on the dust-jacket, with the
editor's name boldly superimposed below the chase, but he need have no
fear of buying critics. This is a Calendar of admirable accuracy and
clarity in transcription, translation, presentation, and production, and
Mr Stagg and the Hampshire County Council are to be jointly congratulated
on achieving such high standards. If the Council is to be criticised
it is only for undue modesty on behalf of the Record Series. Nowhere in
the volume or on the jacket is there any information about previous
or future volumes in the series, or about the price of this or any other
volume. The General Editor should be urged to rectify this for all
future publications.

PETER McCLURE
P. ERLEBACH, Die zusammengesetzten englischen Zusamen französischer Herkunft. Anglistische Forschungen 137: Heidelberg, 1979, 166 pp., 62 DM.

This publication is a revised, enlarged and up-dated version of Prof. Erlebach's Ph.D thesis, printed in a limited edition in 1969. It deals with phenomena of word-formation in compounded English surnames of French origin, thus excluding names formed by derivation (e.g. Butler), apheresis (e.g. Prentice-carpentier), combination of definite article + noun (e.g. Lahay) or preposition + noun/place-name (e.g. Aldeant < ea la dent). For the author's own abstract in English see English and American Studies in German, Summaries of Theses and Monographs. A Supplement to Anglia, 1969, pp. 14-46.

The material has been taken from the well-known dictionaries and monographs on English surnames by Bardsley, Baring-Gould, Ewen. Harrison, Matthews, Regney - Regney's revised dictionary of 1976 being the main source - and Weekley, and is supplemented by names taken from DNB and the Birmingham and Bristol directories.

Part I gives a general introduction to the principles of name-giving, types of by-names, medieval documentation of names and the historical background of French names in England, as well as a short account of the principles of word-formation, in particular compounding.

Due to the rather linguistic (as opposed to onomastic) approach of this study the traditional classification of by-names is substituted by two large classes, viz. toponymical by-names (dealt with in part II) and non-toponymical by-names (part III); the latter, also called nicknames in this publication, include by-names of the patronymic class (e.g. fitzwilliam) and nicknames (e.g. bellamy); apparently there are no compounded occupational by-names of French origin in English.

In part III, to which I would like to turn next, Prof. Erlebach lists all types of word-formation occurring in non-toponymical French surnames: for each type a basic sentence of the deep structure, from which the name derives, is given (see examples below) and an alphabetical list of all names is added. The more important types are:

1. adjective + determinatum (noun, adjectival noun or personal name), e.g. Prudhame (basic sentence: 'he is a prud homme, i.e. a brave man'), Beaubras (basic sentence: 'he has a beau bras, i.e. a nice arm').
2. adverb + adjective/participle, e.g. Malvene (basic sentence: 'he is mal venu, i.e. not welcome').
3. adjective + adjective, e.g. Richbell ('he is rich and bell', i.e. rich and beautiful').
4. genitival compounds:
   a) patronymics derived from a personal name or occupational term (e.g. Fitzjudem, Fitzclerk, the basic sentence being 'he is the son of ___').
   b) metaphorical genitival compounds, e.g. Visdenu ('he has the face of a wolf'), Brazdifer ('he has an arm of iron').

5. sentence-names and imperative-names, e.g. Debrey < dieu le benesic ('God bless him'), Builebois ('burn the wood').

Most of these by-names, however, are not genuine Anglo-Norman names, i.e. names formed in Anglo-Norman England, but by-names brought over from France, where they had been well-established and maybe even hereditary. Thus the process of word-formation, as discussed in part III, did not take place when naming a person in England, but when naming a person in France.

This publication being a study mainly on French word-formation becomes even more evident in part II, in which Anglo-Norman by-names are dealt with that derive from place-names in France. Even if these place-names were first used as by-names in Anglo-Norman England, their types of word-formation, which are discussed along a similar line as explained above, are in fact basically French and may be of greater interest to the French etymologist than the English etymologist.

However, it is interesting to note that different principles of transformation from the basic sentence to the surface structure (i.e. the compounded by-name or place-name) operate in French and English and that a method of description laid down for English word-formation is not always applicable in French.

Prof. Erlebach's study will be valuable for the student of comparative linguistics, when read in conjunction with H. Helferich, Bildungstypen anglicher Zusamen germanschen Ursprungs (diss., Mainz 1971), which is a similar study on English by-names of Germanic origin.

KLAUS FORSTER
Grímur. Rit um nafsfæði í, ed. by Þórhallur Vilmundarson, Ömnuanstofnun Fjöðminjasafns (Reykjavik) 1980, 144 pp., 7,200 Icelandic kröfur plus postage.

In these days of economic stringency and cultural philistinism, when established onomatopoeic journals have had to resort to primitive and unattractive methods of publication in order to survive, it is pleasant to be able to welcome the appearance of a new Icelandic journal whose production is worthy of its contents and a credit to the editor, the publisher and the printer.

The journal takes its title from the by-name, "the hooded one", assumed by the Norse god Odin on a visit to King Gúfólfr. The king, who does not recognise the disguised Odin, places him between two fires. After he has spent eight nights in this uncomfortable position, Odin is brought a drink by the king's son, Agnar. He then relates the names of the dwellings of the gods and other names from their world, concluding with a recital of the by-names of Odin. When Grímur finally reveals his identity, the king stumbles on his drawn sword and is killed and Agnar inherits the kingdom.

We are to understand that Grímur, whose blue cloak is reflected in the dark-blue cover of the journal, is the place-name scholar. The fires between which he is placed are on the one hand the burning necessity to record all Icelandic place-names before they are lost to posterity and on the other hand the need to interpret the names correctly and to pass on these interpretations to the public. The evil king and his compassionate son represent forces in society, some of which put the cultural inheritance of Iceland at risk, while others provide the hard-pressed scholar with the means of living.

Grímur I, which is copiously illustrated with photographs and maps, contains three articles (two with English summaries), a short review section (pp. 45-49), an account of the activities of Ömnuanstofnun, the Icelandic place-name institute (pp. 50-56), and contributions to a dictionary of Icelandic place-names (pp. 57-140), all items the work of Þórhallur Vilmundarson. Two of the articles deal with individual names. The specific of Hálkundahéði is assumed to have developed from *Hálka-* and to refer to the boulders which are strewn over the heath and not, as previously thought, to have any connection with the Old English adjective helmund "devilish" (pp. 7-21), while the specific of Skuggfoss is taken to be a waterfall-name *Skugg* rather than *sang* f. "elderdronn" (pp. 37-44). The third article, which deals with the creation of new names and the care of existing names in Iceland (pp. 24-36), is reprinted from NÓRNA-Rapportar 13 (Uppsala, 1978).

Of greatest interest to most readers of Nomina will be the dictionary entries and it is to be regretted that English summaries of these have not been provided. Most of the entries deal with names for which Þórhallur proposes a different interpretation from the one(s) earlier accepted and many of the interpretations he rejects derive from Landnámabók (The Book of the Settlers). The name Ketilstraðir, for example, is found no less than 14 times in Iceland and landnámabók tells that the first settler at one of these places was a man called Ketill. This personal name was common in Iceland and Norway in the Viking period and it has therefore been assumed to be the specific of all the Ketilstraðir-names. Þórhallur, however, points out that the appellative ketill "cauldron" is frequently used in Iceland for hollows in the landscape and that some of the Ketilstraðir-names may thus have taken their specific from a natural feature, while others may refer to places where cauldrons used in the production of cheese, salt or tar were found (pp. 105-10).

Two Irish personal names that have been thought to be recorded in Icelandic place-names have now been removed by Þórhallur from the corpus of settlement-period personal names. He argues that Brjónumjökur did not originally contain Brjónum (= Brian) but must have begun life as Brjónumjökur and derived its name from the lignite (surtarbrandr) which is found in the neighbourhood (p. 71), while Dunkafærstadar, an older name for Dunkir, is shown to be more likely to contain a river-name *Dunka* or a waterfall-name *Dunkafoss* than an Irish personal name Dunka (= Donnchadh) (pp. 77-79).

There is no other evidence for the use of the name Donnchadh in Iceland, while Brian does make a couple of appearances in the fifteenth century and is borne by a few present-day Icelanders.

Of interest for the study of Daniclaw place-names is Þórhallur's discussion of the name Nýttarafaravík (pp. 119-25). According to Landnámabók Nýttarafaravík derives its name from the first settler there, a man called Nýttari, but the narrative is unconvincing and the personal name not recorded elsewhere in Iceland or in Norway so Þórhallur suggests that nýttari "night-traveller" refers to trolls. The landscape around Nýttarafaravík is characterised by hills and rocks in grotesque formations and free-standing pillar rocks off the coast, claimed by local traditions to be trolls that turned to stone with the arrival of the dawn. Nafferton in the East Riding of Yorkshire has been assumed to contain the personal name Nýttari, which is recorded in Sweden, but the suggestion that the specific refers to trolls is perhaps worthy of consideration. Within the boundaries of the parish of Nafferton lies the Iron Age cemetery known as Dames' Graves. This once contained over 500 small barrows that were 6-30 ft in diameter and 1-3 ft high and it is conceivable that the cemetery might have appeared to the Viking settlers as the work of trolls.

The dictionary entries are all well argued and clearly and elegantly presented, although they occasionally appear a little over-ingenious to the outside observer. It would be well worth the effort for those who have studied Icelandic to read these thought-provoking discussions for themselves.

GILLIAN FELLOWS JENSEN

Students of literary onomastics now have a valuable research-aid in Elizabeth Rajec's bibliography, the most comprehensive so far produced and the first stage, its author assures us, of her project to provide an even fuller compilation. The present volume aims to reflect the width and variety of literary name-studies: it includes English and non-English authors, and its entries embrace studies in book- and article-form, authors' comments on their use of names, reviews, and a selection of general reference sources. A spot-check on the listing for Chaucer and Shakespeare reveals that there is also variety-in-depth, accurate transcription, and reference to studies published as recently as 1977. Minor complaints would be that there are one or two surprising omissions in the choice of authors (Thackeray is an example) and that the book's annotations can be disappointingly perfunctory, often merely summarising what is quite evident in the title of a study. A more serious complaint is that there is little initial attempt to set out the principles upon which the selection of items depends - so that we are left to speculate for ourselves upon the choice of authors who merit inclusion. As for the book's apparatus, it is useful without being fussy: the main listings are arranged by author in a single alphabetical sequence, followed by a detailed subject index. In most ways, then, the author makes good her claim to have provided 'a strong first step' towards a fully comprehensive bibliography of literary onomastics. One looks forward with anticipation to Elizabeth Rajec's subsequent steps in this direction.

Owen Knowles

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW


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