Editorial

The Editorial Board are sorry for the late appearance of the present issue, which we had hoped would appear in autumn 1991. The illness and untimely death of Miss Clark, a sad blow to all her friends and to onomastic and linguistic scholarship, has however meant that Volume XIV has been produced under very difficult circumstances. The Editorial Board would like to thank the two Editorial Assistants, Miss Fiona Duncan and Mr Peter Jackson, as well as the Subscriptions Secretary Mr Gordon Anderson, for their invaluable help with the volume. A full obituary of Miss Clark will appear in Volume XV.

Parts of Volume XV (1991-92) are already typeset and we expect it to be issued early in 1992. It is still our intention to return to a punctual publishing schedule as soon as we can.

Volume XV will be the last to be issued under the auspices of the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland. Thereafter Nomina will constitute the journal of the newly-formed Society for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland and will be issued to members of that body against an annual subscription. All readers who are not already members are urged to join this new society; write to Jennifer Scherr, Hon. Secretary, SNSBI, Queen's Building Library, University of Bristol, University Walk, Bristol, BS8 1TR. A report of the inaugural meeting, held at the University of Manchester in October 1991, will be included in Volume XV.

C.C.
O.J.P.
A.R.R.
V.J.S.

Medieval Latin Translations of English Personal Bynames:
Their Value for Surname History

Richard McKinley

TWELFTH- and thirteenth-century English administrative documents often represent vernacular bynames by Latin translations. After c.1300 the practice tends to become less frequent, but during the fourteenth century it is still not particularly rare; many examples can be found in, for example, the late-fourteenth-century poll-tax rolls. Even in the sixteenth century such usage is not totally extinct. Bynames employing occupational or topographical terms are often translated by Latin equivalents, e.g., tinctor for 'dyer' (ME deier, dextere, lietere), sub bosco for under wode. Nickname-type by-names are also often Latinized: sometimes literally, e.g., rufus for the rede;1 sometimes, as will be considered in more detail below, on a basis of folk-etymology. Much less often, Latin forms of toponymical bynames are found, but these are mainly confined to the well-established Latin forms of a restricted number of place-names, e.g., de Wintonia or Wintonensis for of Winchester. Latin forms of baptismal names are of course frequently used, and these sometimes, although not very often, occur in bynames.

Latin forms of bynames have generally been left on one side by scholars studying Middle English names; self-evidently, the Latin forms are unproductive for the study of Middle English itself. For some other purposes, however, it is necessary to take these forms into account. For the period before 1300 especially, they constitute important evidence for the distribution of certain names, and also for the tracing of genealogies. Many individuals appear with their names given sometimes in Latin, sometimes in the vernacular. If evidence about a family's pedigree is being assembled, it is essential to have regard to occurrences of the family name in Latin as well as in vernacular forms; and tracing the early history of surnames in this way may well be crucial also for discovering how they arose. There are also questions about the identification of individuals which may be important for historical purposes, even though not for linguistic ones. Where an individual is repeatedly mentioned in a set of sources, it is common to find the name given sometimes in a Latin form, sometimes in a vernacular one. This can readily be seen in the Pipe Rolls, where the same persons often figure year after year in successive rolls. At times a confusing array of Latin forms may be used to represent the name of one and the same person: Tengvik pointed out many years ago that a Domesday Book tenant TRW

Abbreviations and Symbols

Except where otherwise indicated, abbreviations throughout this volume are those listed ante X, 210-15, and XI, 212-13. Pronunciations are shown, when necessary, by means of the International Phonetic Alphabet.
named as Robert Flavus was apparently the same man as the Robert Albus, Robert Blanchardus and Robert Blindus mentioned in the same record, all these various epithets alluding to flaxen hair. It is difficult to be sure what the presumably Old French form of this man's name was, although it may have been Blanchard or Blund.

Identifying just which vernacular name is being translated by any given Latin form is not always straightforward. In most cases the literal meaning of the Latin is clear enough. This is not, however, invariably the case: for example, the Latin words gigator and diffibulatus all occur as translations of bynames. More commonly, the meaning of the Latin words employed is obvious, but instances of vernacular equivalents have not yet been found: e.g., William tonsus ('shorn, tonsured') 1103x1104, Richard de Mala Palaude ('from the salt marsh' or a rendering of a proper place-name like Fulmarsh) 1219, Walter de Albo Equo (no doubt from the well-known Vale of the White Horse in Berkshire) 1219, Alfred factor navium ('boatwright, cogger') 1219, or William Malus Nepos (with which may be compared Old French bynames such as Malfile, Malfillastre) 1160x1167. Further research might reveal the vernacular forms concerned in some of these instances, but it is unlikely that all such cases can be solved.

Instances where the vernacular equivalents are unidentifiable are nevertheless uncommon, and mostly concern bynames which were always rare, often ones found each as the name of one individual only. What is more troublesome is that some quite common Latin terms are used for translating more than one vernacular name and that, as already noted, some common bynames are translated by more than one Latin term. The only way to be sure which surname is being translated by any particular Latin form is to discover examples where the same individual is mentioned more than once, with his or her name given both in the vernacular and in translation. It is only by paying attention to such cases that worthwhile evidence can be obtained about which vernacular names were in fact being translated. As observed, many examples can be found in the Pipe Rolls, where the same persons often appear in successive years, often over long periods, with their names given sometimes in the vernacular, sometimes in Latin. Instances also occur in a wide range of other sources. Thus, Gilbert Barrer, a thirteenth-century resident in Sussex, is also named as Gilbert Barrarius: his byname is derived by means of the suffix -er from the topographical term barre 'gate', a type of formation very common in Sussex, but the Latin form makes the byname look as though it were an occupational one. A family who were tenants at Modbury in Devon during the same century are referred to in manorial records sometimes as atte Traeven (from a place-name, now Traina, in Modbury), sometimes as de Arboribus. One of the rarer bynames is that of Roger Deus Salvat Dominas, a 1086 tenant in Essex, who seems to have had some link with the nunnery of the Holy Trinity at Caen, so that the Dominas figuring in his byname were probably the nuns of that house; his Essex lands were later in the hands of William De Salt les Dames, whose byname is obviously that translated by the Latin phrase used in 1086. Many other examples could be given where the vernacular form of a byname sometimes given in Latin translation proves to be securely identifiable.

It is only by observing such cases that reliable guidance can be obtained about what Middle English or Old French name was translated by any given Latin form. Although it is possible, by proceeding in this way, to find a good deal of firm ground about Latin translations, not all the problems can be solved. As noted, instances can be found where the name of one and the same individual is rendered by a variety of Latin terms and, if none can be identified of the name given in a vernacular form, it may often be impossible to determine what the latter was. Thus, Geoffrey Blindus, a late-twelfth-century Londoner, is also referred to as Geoffrey Albus, and likewise Edward Blundius, another twelfth-century Londoner, is also called Edward Albus; their vernacular name was probably 'White' (Reynold Albus, at Lavant in Sussex c.1285, is alternatively called Reynold le Wite), but other bynames, such as Blundell, Blount, or Fairfax might be concerned. William de Foro, at Ormesby in Norfolk in the late thirteenth century, is also called William de Mercato; the vernacular form was probably atte Market, which occurs at the same place at the same period, but it is difficult to be sure.

Thirteenth-century sources, which often furnish multiple references to a single individual, provide many instances of this sort of thing. In most cases, it is possible to be reasonably confident about what the vernacular name involved was. What is more confusing is the way in which a single Latin term might be used to translate more than one byname. Thus, the widely-used Latin carpentarius is used for translating both Carpenter and Wright, and occasionally, although not often, it is used for rendering compounds like Arkwright. Likewise, parvis is used for translating Little, Small, Petty, and Short. It is often uncertain what vernacular forms Latin words such as crassus or rufus did represent. For the problems raised by these circumstances, there is no satisfactory...
solution.

Latin translations of Middle English or Old French bynames do at least show what contemporaries thought to be the meanings of the names concerned. Such beliefs were of course not always correct, and may at times have been based on folk-etymology. Nevertheless, Latin translations may give clues as to how some bynames, and so ultimately the corresponding family-names, especially the ones derived from nicknames, came to be created. A careful comparison of Latin and vernacular forms will further show what vernacular bynames lie behind some Latin ones. Thus, the byname aculaex found in the 1086 stratum of Domesday Book has been rendered in the Phillimore edition as ‘goad’, and the Latin term does indeed mean ‘goad’ or ‘insect sting’. In Domesday Book no vernacular equivalent seems to occur, but when the Latin form occurs later, during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, it can then be seen to be translating the Old French name Aguilon, an hereditary name found in Sussex from the twelfth century on; and in all probability this is the name involved in the Domesday Book references. The evidence of Latin forms is also worth taking into consideration in the case of surnames or bynames whose origins are difficult to deduce, perhaps because of a confusing variety of forms. Thus, there occurs in London during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries a byname taking forms such as Buccuine, Becuine, Baucuine and so on, which was already hereditary by about 1200; this is Latinized as Bucca Uncia ‘oily mouth’. Some Latinized forms seem based on false etymologies. Thus, the name Quatremares has generally been thought to mean ‘four marks’; similar names, such as Dismars and Quinzmars existed in England. On the other hand, Quatermars has been found Latinized as Quattuor Maris. This latter probably represents a mistaken etymology, although it should be noted that the surname Quatemars also exists in France. Another case where the Latin form is confusing is that of a landed family in the south west of England whose name usually appears, from Domesday Book onwards, in the vernacular form de Lestre, probably referring to the place Lestre (dép. Manche). In certain sources it is, however, consistently Latinized as de Atrio; this apparently arises from use of Latin atrium in its usual medieval sense of ‘room’ and to the belief that the name derived from the word étre, which was borrowed from Old French into Middle English and sometimes used in the sense ‘room’. This last example shows how much confusion can arise from Latin translation of bynames and surnames. It is hoped that enough

McKinley has been said here to indicate both a need for caution in dealing with Latin translations and also what great value such translations may in some circumstances have.

LEICESTER

NOTES

This is a revised version of the paper delivered on 31 March 1990 at the XXIIInd Annual Study conference organized by the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland, held at the College of Ripon and York St John, Ripon.

1 Thus, e.g., Adam Rabelus beside Adam Ryele 1305X1306, in B.C. Redwood and A.E. Wilson, eds and trans, Customals of the Sussex Manses of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sussex Record Society LVII ( Lewes, 1958), 136, 137.
2 GDB, fo.73b (Wilts., 60/1, and n. ad loc.) Robertus familiar; fo.130c (Middx. 17/1, and n. ad loc.) Robertus blandus; fo.225c (Nithants, 33/1 and n. ad loc.) Robertus albucus); LDB, 76b, 103a (Essex, 35/3 and n. ad loc., 90/83) Robert blandus); cf. OEB, 293, 294, 313, and 319 s.n. se Hwisa; also DBS, s.n. Blanchard, Blain and White, and A. Dauzat, Dictionnaire etymologique des noms de famille et prénoms de France, rev. M-Th. Morlet (Paris, 1969), s.n. Blanc++ (Leblanc, etc.), Blanchard/Blancard, and Blond++ (Leblond, etc.)
5 B.E. Harris, ed., PR 3 Henry III, PRS n.s. XLII (London, 1976), 197 (Forderness).
6 PR 3 Henry III, 33 (Hants). For the place-name, see PN Berks., 380, where a 1221 record of a man’s name as Stephanus de Blanc Cheval is cited.
7 PR 3 Henry III, 143 (Sussex). Cf. DBS, s.n. Boatwright; for cogger, see, e.g. McKinley, Sussex, 241, 244.
8 H.A. Cronne and R.H.C. Davis, eds, Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum, III
Locative Surnames in Wales: A Preliminary List

Prys Morgan

IT has long been assumed that all Welsh surnames are based on patronymics, and it is true that the great majority are. But that gives a misleading impression, for several hundreds of place-names in Wales have, over the centuries, given rise to surnames, as will be made clear by the list printed here. First compiled to illustrate a paper presented at the Annual Study Conference held by the Council for Name Studies at Ripon in 1990, it is meant to show that locative (viz. toponymical) surnames—with a very small number of topographical forms as well—have been unjustly neglected, although they do admittedly form a far smaller proportion of the total number of Welsh surnames than do similar formations in England. Secondly, it is hoped that the lists will help students of names and genealogists to trace both names and families, especially since many Welsh locative surnames such as Broughton, Horton or Walterston appear misleadingly English, although they demonstrably arise in Wales.

The situation is, however, complex, because—as the present list shows—even with a small store of locative surnames several forms, such as Kyffin, Coedmore, Maysmore and Blayney, each prove to originate from several places which have identical names. What will, moreover, not be clear from the list, but must always be kept in mind when looking for the origin of a family, is that a considerable number of Welsh locative surnames are very similar to English ones: for example, Britton, Flint, Holt, Martell, Moss, Nash, Newport, Pool(e) and Delapoke, Stanton, and Sully may all have origins outside as well as inside Wales, and several of them may not even be locative or topographical at all.

The list has been laid out according to the pre-1974 historical shires of Wales. First, the commonest form of the surname is given as headword, then its present-day geographical equivalent, as nearly as possible, and, third, either an early example of the surname or else an easily accessible printed source for the family or genealogy concerned. Where it has been possible to check that the name survives in the modern electoral registers or telephone directories, this is noted. The strange and irregular distribution pattern of Welsh locative surnames will be discussed elsewhere.

1 See, e.g., Book of Fees, II, 769. Cf. MED, s.v. estre, sense 3 (c).