

Karl Inge Sandred (1925–2008)¹

Dr Karl Inge Sandred, the English Place-Name Survey's editor in Norfolk, died on 25th September 2008 in Uppsala, Sweden, after a lengthy struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Born in 1925, he studied English and Scandinavian language and literature at Uppsala University. His first work with onomastic implications was the monograph arising out of his Fil.Lic. thesis of 1959, published by Uppsala University under the title *English place-names in -stead* in 1963. Nearly fifty years on, this remains the only significant study of the OE word *stede*, as Kenneth Cameron effectively predicted in his notice of the work in the *Review of English Studies* (1965): "Mr Sandred is to be congratulated on an excellent and detailed study, one which will remain a standard work of reference for years to come". The work was characterized, very much in the Swedish philological tradition, by a profound and detailed knowledge not only of Old English and the sources of evidence for it, but also of the relationship of the English language to the other Germanic languages.

After accepting in 1969 a permanent post as *docent* at Uppsala University, Dr Sandred spent 1971–2 as an academic visitor at Nottingham, and subsequently took on as his main life's work the EPNS county editorship of Norfolk. He inherited forty years' worth of material for that county amassed by Dr O. K. Schram of Edinburgh University which had found its way to Nottingham after Schram's death in 1968. In the preface to the first of the three Survey volumes Dr Sandred produced (in 1989, 1996 and 2002), he describes the task of arranging and then supplementing this rich material. He acknowledged generously the contributions of other scholars; the first volume appeared over the name of Bengt Lindström as well as his own, and the second acknowledged the contributions of Barbara Cornford and Paul Rutledge as well as Dr Lindström. Dr Sandred was sole named author of the third. His work is marked by great philological care and clarity, and a willingness to offer, in controlled measure, archaeological, ecclesiastical and architectural information which might have an impact on the interpretations offered for the place-names he treated. He attacked individual philological issues arising from Norfolk names in other publications, perhaps most notably the question of names like *Ingham*,

¹ Some details are taken from Lennart Elmevik's tribute in the Yearbook of the Place-Name Society of Uppsala, *Ortnamnssällskapets i Uppsala Årsskrift* (2008).

which he believed was a recurrent name for a royal estate, containing a term for an Anglian king as a member of the “Ingwionic” dynasty (*Leeds Studies in English* 18 (1987)). This view is cited with approval by later writers.

He never lost sight of the implications of his onomastic work for other branches of Germanic philology; or perhaps it should be stated the other way round. Being permanently resident in Sweden, he remained well aware of his Scandinavian audience, and produced a series of papers both in Swedish and English, tracking the progress of his studies and their wider relevance for Scandinavia, for instance: ‘Det engelska *stead* och det nordiska *stad* “kant, rand”’, in *Namn och bygd* 87 (1999), and ‘Norwich: uppkomsten av en medeltida stad’ in the Uppsala Place-Name Society’s journal (2001), not to forget ‘Det nordiska Norfolk’ and ‘Karleby, Karlby in Finland and Charlton, Carlton in England’, in collections edited respectively by Svante Strandberg and Marianne Blomqvist in the same year (1997). As the last three illustrate, he was a regular contributor to series of publications originating at Uppsala; most notably he co-edited with Thorsten Andersson the conference proceedings on *The Vikings* (1977) and solo-edited the volume celebrating 50 years of place-name studies at Uppsala, *Uppländsk horisont. Ortnamnssällskapet i Uppsala 1935–1985* (1986).

Dr Sandred was a rounded scholar, with many arrows in his quiver destined for an impressive range of targets. He never lost his interest in English studies outside onomastics. He published two other authored books: an edition of the Gloucester Cathedral Middle English version of the *Gesta Romanorum* (1971), and a study of the sociolinguistics of Modern Scots entitled *Good or bad Scots?* (1983). The latter was supported by articles such as ‘Overt and covert prestige: evaluative boundaries in a speech community’, in Manfred Görlach’s edited collection *Focus on Scotland* (1985), one of the English language regional series from John Benjamins. Like other scholars at the same period, such as John Widdowson and David North, he continued to extend the study of the traditional rural vocabulary of English revealed by the Survey of English Dialects, publishing such papers as ‘On the Terminology of Plough in England’, *Studia Neophilologica* 38 (1966), and ‘Notes on the Distribution of Some Plough Terms in Modern English Dialects’ in the same journal two years later. His published articles also include several studies dealing with the contribution onomastics can make to dialectology, for example ‘East Anglian Place-Names: Sources of Lost Dialect’ in a collection edited by Jacek Fisiak and Peter Trudgill. He produced an interpretation of the difficult Anglo-Saxon

bounds of Godmersham, Kent in *Namn och bygd* 53 (1965), returning to them again in a collection published in Uppsala by Eva Brylla and colleagues, *Från götarna till Norens kor* (1996). Less well known in England, perhaps, is his interest in the West African English-based creole language Krio, exemplified in his contribution to a working group at a conference in Galway in 1992 and published in P. S. Ureland and I. Clarkson's volume *Language contact across the North Atlantic* (1996).

A full list of his publications to 2003 appears in *Ortnamnssällskapets i Uppsala Årsskrift* for that year.

Dr Sandred's scholarship will be sadly missed in Britain and in Scandinavia, as will his hospitality in Uppsala, and the sincere condolences of onomasticians go to his wife Gunvor, his family and friends.

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