The twenty-second annual study conference organized by the Society for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Pond Hotel, Glasgow, from 5 to 8 April 2013. The programme was organized by Professor Carole Hough. It began innovatively with a session of multiple speakers from a postgraduate conference which preceded it. Here the Baltic littoral figured more prominently than usual in our meetings, Elin Pihl (Uppsala) tracing survival of the fittest in Swedish field-names, Alexandra Petrulevich (Uppsala) following cross-linguistic fortunes of Wendish place-names in Knýtlinga saga, and Sofie Albris (Copenhagen) joining the perennial quest to relate place-names and archaeology.

Normal service was resumed on the Saturday morning, when Jayne Carroll and John Baker (Nottingham) and David Parsons (Aberystwyth) reported on the state of the English Place-Name Society survey of Shropshire; but not quite as we have known it, since they declared that this is the first time that EPNS volumes have been produced by a research team dedicated specifically to that end. Emily Pennifold (Aberystwyth), another of the first night’s contributors, now spoke in more detail on ‘Analysing nineteenth-century field-names in the Anglo-Welsh borderland’, including Welsh-speaking communities on the English side not registered by censuses. Paul Tempan (Belfast) spoke on ‘Bryantang and Bootown: Cumbrian (English) names in east Ulster’, involving colonization by enterprising knights in the late twelfth century.

Patrick Hanks (Bristol) and Matthew Hammond (York) spoke on ‘Black’s Surnames of Scotland and the FaNUK database’, with emphasis on improved control of sources using scholarly tools not available in Black’s day. A lapsus linguæ introduced us to the delightful islands Shetney and Orkland. Aengus Finnegan (Westmeath) expounded ‘Mac Carrghamhna: a vanished Westmeath surname?’, finding its eponym in a twelfth-century dynast. Ellen Bramwell related ‘Personal names and cultural contact: evidence from modern-day Scotland’, adducing such Scotticized Pakistanis as Malkie and Billie alias Malek and Bilal.
After lunch there were things completely different. Kenneth Fraser (St Andrews) spoke on ‘The politics of naming warships’. In the spirit of Britannia ruling waves irrespective of geography, examples ranged from a twenty-seventh-century BC pharaoh to post-Soviet space. He dwelt lovingly on renamings attendant on large changes of regime or of bureaucratic taste. Ship-names of whatever nationality were largely intelligible to strangers: not so the subjects of the next two papers. Doreen Waugh broached “Auld Clettin Roe”; “Wha’ll Dance wi’ Wattie?” — naming Shetland fiddle tunes’. (Wattie was explicated as too energetic for his female partners.) Shaun Tyas examined ‘Some problematic Scottish football club nicknames’, elucidating among others the late-nineteenth-century context whence the pre-1967 club Third Lanark came to be known as the Hi-Hi’s.

Sobriety returned when Gilbert Márkus (Edinburgh) presented the surprising character of ‘Colum Cille inimicus Scotorum’. It seemed St Columba’s patronage was adopted by Viking-descended Hebrideans so militantly that the Scots kings preferred Thomas à Becket. Keith Briggs examined the distribution of ‘Saint’s name + stōw in Suffolk’. He made a good case for Felixstowe really containing the name of St Felix as Ekwall thought. In the evening progress reports were given on some half-dozen ongoing projects.

The first paper on Sunday after the annual general meeting considered the potential of a single one, Peder Gammeltoft on ‘DigDag launched—the end of a project or a new beginning for Danish onomastics?’. Alan James (Castle Douglas) related the place-naming productivity of ‘Cumbric terv in Kyle, Carrick and Galloway’ to changes in land-holding into and out of ‘multiple estates’ in the eighth to tenth centuries. Thomas Clancy (Glasgow) gave a talk on ‘Clusters, contexts and contrasts: place-names in Ayrshire’ illustrated with several twelfth- and thirteenth-century charter boundaries. That prepared us for the afternoon excursion mainly in Ayrshire, involving the Robert Burns Museum at Alloway and the optical illusion of the Electric Brae. The adventures of Tam O’Shanter were vividly re-created on the home ground of one of our participants and her enthusiastic black dog.

In the evening John Freeman (London) examined possible origins for ‘Pyon, Herefordshire—a pre-English hill-name?’. The etymology was problematic, but he thought conical hills, which he pictured, lay behind whatever version. Finally Eila Williamson (Glasgow) spoke on collaboration between academics and local amateurs who went ‘Out and about with STIT: exchanging knowledge of Scotland’s place-names’.

P. R. K.
This substantial volume is a worthy celebration of Professor Wilhelm Nicolaisen and his distinguished and lifelong contribution to onomastic and related fields. ‘Bill’, as we have come to know him, is a pre-eminent scholar, inspirational teacher, and influential researcher on names, linguistics, literary and socio-onomastics, and folklore, and highly regarded on both sides of the Atlantic. Amongst his many titles and honours, he is well known to members of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland as its first President, a committed encourager of all, including its younger members, and a continuing supporter of its aims. His association with the Society goes back even further: he was the first Secretary of its prestigious forerunner, the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland.

The volume’s title, *In the Beginning was the Name*, is taken from the first essay here selected by Nicolaisen and the Scottish Place-Name Society for reprinting. Altogether, the book offers a careful selection of papers, some from mainstream journals, others from less easily consultable publications. The result happily reflects Nicolaisen’s innovative approaches to onomastic theory and his wide-ranging research interests and achievements: his particular emphases on ‘the past as place’ and ‘the place in time’; his endless curiosity for the processes of naming and narrative; and his distinctive, accessible and often drily witty style.

The *Foreword* to the book comprises a biographical appreciation, offered by Ian Fraser (a President of the Scottish Place-Name Society), reviewing Nicolaisen’s university education in Kiel, Tübingen, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Glasgow; his teaching and research careers at the universities of Edinburgh, the State University of New York (Binghamton) and Aberdeen; his many honours; and his consummate scholarship as author, editor and mentor. Nicolaisen himself provides a *Preface*, explaining the rationale behind the selection, which was to
concentrate on articles appearing since 1976: that is, to provide in some sense a sequel to his major work, *Scottish Place-Names: Their Study and Significance*. These papers were chosen by a sub-group of the Committee of the Scottish Place-Name Society, in close consultation with Nicolaisen. Doreen Waugh, in her *Acknowledgements*, recognises the financial support provided by the Dorothea Coke Memorial Fund, the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, the Scottish Society for Northern Studies, the Place-Name Society of Uppsala, the School of Scottish Studies Archives, the Shetland Place-Name Project, as well as the Scottish Place-Name Society itself. This considerable range of bodies reflects the great admiration and affection felt for Bill by so many (as well as accounting for the very reasonable price of the book).

The bulk of the volume consists of thirty-three papers, selected for their importance and influence, from a much longer list which appears in the bibliographic *Appendix*. These final seventeen pages provide an impressive survey of Nicolaisen’s publications in onomastics from 1957–2008 (a selection from over 700 publications in all—and counting!). Mostly recording individual articles and reports, the bibliography naturally includes his major work, *Scottish Place-Names* (Batsford, 1976) and the new edition (John Donald, 2001), which, happily, has recently been reprinted (Birlinn, 2011). Listed here as well are his equally important, popular but scholarly, collaborative dictionary, *The Names of Towns and Cities in Britain* (Batsford, 1970), written with Margaret Gelling and Melville Richards; as well as a shorter book, *The Picts and their Place Names* (Groam House Museum, 1996).

Of the thirty-three essays, at least half are concerned with names in Scotland, ranging from surnames, to specialised regional discussions such as of Shetland, Orkney, North-East Scotland, and the Moray Firth, through to single place-names such as Falkirk and Aberdeen, and to more generalised types, such as Burnside of Duntrune. Other essays deal with onomastic dialects, literary onomastics (highlighting R.L. Stevenson and Chaim Bermant), place-names and maps, place-names and politics, and place-names and folk studies. One of the more frequently cited articles of those reprinted here is, fittingly for a former President of the American Folklore Society, ‘The Past as Place: Names, Stories and the Remembered Self’ (*Folklore* 102 [1991] 3–15).

The longest (and earliest) article reprinted is ‘The Semantic Structure of Scottish Hydronomy’ (*Scottish Studies* 1 [1957] 211–40), based on a chapter of Nicolaisen’s B.Litt. Glasgow thesis (1956). This is in part supplemented by ‘Thirty Years Later: Thoughts on a Viable Concept
of Old European Hydronomy’ (*Beiträge zur allgemeinen, indogermanischen und romanischen Sprachwissenschaft* (1982) 551–63). The shortest essay is ‘Scottish Loch Names’, a revision of work previously published as part of an entry ‘Seenamen’ in *Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde* 28 (2005) 49–51. A not inconsiderable number of papers in German are listed in the bibliography, raising the question of how much Nicolaisen’s love of literary and linguistic word-play, and interest in the naming process and in the international themes of folklore, is grounded in his bilingual upbringing and education.

The papers are presented in chronological order, and are topped and tailed by more personal and idiosyncratic essays—‘An Onomastic Autobiography, or In the Beginning was the Name’ (*Names* 47.3 [Sept. 1999] 179–90) and ‘Teaching Names: A Personal Account’ (*Onoma* 39 [2004, published 2007] 19–28). The first of these is liberally illustrated with family photographs of ‘Putzi’ (Bill’s pre-school-age name), and ‘Willi’, ‘Billy’, ‘Daddy’—‘the remembered self’—and includes official portraits of himself as Head of the Scottish Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, 1956–69, and as Distinguished Professor of English and Folklore, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1969–92. The Scottish Place-Name Society is to be congratulated for producing this comprehensive tribute to Bill Nicolaisen; in gratitude for his leadership, scholarship, and friendship, we welcome an impressive collection which tells, in part, the onomastic journey of his life.

JENNIFER SCHERR
I: Bibliographies; other reference works


II: Ancillary disciplines

(a) Historical studies

Evans, R. J., L. O’Toole and D. P. Whitfield (2012), ‘The history of eagles in Britain and Ireland: an ecological review of placename and documentary evidence from the last 1500 years’, Bird Study 59, 335–49.


**Reviews**


**(b) Philology**


Reviews

III: Onomastics

(a) General and miscellaneous

Felecan, O., ed. (2012), *Name and Naming: Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars) [partly analyzed herein].


**Reviews**


**(b) Source-materials and methodology**


**(c) Anthroponymy**


Colman, F. (2011), ‘On the moneyers’ names *Buga* and *Boia* on Anglo-Saxon coins’, *Nomina* 34, 91–120.


logical and religious-historical exploration’], *Studia Anthroponymica Scandinavica* 30, 5–18 [uses evidence from the Old English poems *Widsith* and *Beowulf*].


**Reviews**


**(d) Toponymy**


— (2012), The Place-Names of Shropshire Part Six The Hundreds of Brimstree and Bradford South, EPNS 89 (Nottingham: English Place-Name Society).
Gunn, M., ed. (2012), Logainmneacha: Place-Names (Dublin: Everson Gunn Teoranta) [analyzed herein].


Márkus, G. (2012), The Place-Names of Bute (Donington: Shaun Tyas).


— with G. Márkus (2012), The Place-Names of Fife vol. 5 Discussion, Glossaries and Edited Texts (Donington: Shaun Tyas).


**Reviews**


MacQueen, J. (2002), Place-Names in the Rhinns of Galloway and Luce Valley (Stranraer: Stranraer and District Local History Trust), and MacQueen, J. (2008), Place-Names of the Wigtownshire Moors and Machars (Stranraer: Stranraer and District Local History Trust). Reviewed by T. O. Clancy in Journal of Scottish Name Studies 6 (2012), 87–96.


(e) Medieval literary onomastics


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Corrigendum: Coates (2010), in the Bibliography for 2011, *Nomina* 35 (2012), 171, should read as follows: