

The pronunciation of English place-names has been a field widely neglected by pronouncing dictionaries and place-name scholars. In recent years only two publications have to a larger extent - but not exclusively - dealt with the pronunciation of English place-names, viz. G. Miller, *BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of Proper Names*, London 1971, and T. Otsuka et al., *English Pronouncing Dictionary of Proper Names*, Tokyo 1969; beside these two valuable volumes D. Jones, *English Pronouncing Dictionary*, London, 13th edn. 1967, repr. with corr. 1974, contains a considerable number of place-name pronunciations. However, all three dictionaries list the so-called spelling pronunciation of a place-name, i.e. a form of pronunciation which is oriented after the modern spelling of the name; only G. Miller and D. Jones occasionally quote local or archaic forms of pronunciation.

A wider selection of archaic and local (dialectal) forms of pronunciation is presented in two older publications, viz. R. C. Hope, *A Glossary of Dialectal Place-nomenclature*, London, 2nd edn. 1883 (1st edn. Scarborough 1882) and in M.M.A. Schröber, *Neuenglisches Aussprache-Wörterbuch mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der wichtigsten Eigennamen*. Heidelberg, 2nd edn. 1922 (1st edn. 1913).

In order to obtain further information about possible local, obsolescent or archaic pronunciations deviating from the "official" pronunciation one must consult the publications of the English Place-Name Society, where local and archaic forms are given as incidental material. Another source is the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* by E. Ekwall and a number of publications on English place-names published before the EPNS series started in 1926. Some local forms can also be found in the *English Dialect Grammar* and *English Dialect Dictionary* by J. Wright and in works on regional dialects. None of these works, however, gives a complete list of the pronunciation of place-names in the county dealt with.

For this reason the present writer, having consulted and excerpted more than a hundred volumes on place-names and dialects as well as pronouncing dictionaries, plans to compile a dictionary of archaic, local and Standard pronunciations of English place-names. For some placenames more than one form of local pronunciation has been found, and the source from which a particular form has been collected will be quoted; this will give the reader a hint as to when a particular local form was recorded and whether it is still likely to be in current use. The author expects to present about 9,000 place-names with about 20,000 forms of pronunciation that have been current for the last hundred years.

KLAUS FORSTER

University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

In the Autumn of 1974 I began work on the place-names of the Isle of Arran in Scotland for a Ph.D. degree supervised by Mr. R. L. Thomson of the University of Leeds. The first part of my task took me to the Ordnance Survey and Rolls Offices in Edinburgh and the Estate Office at Brodick in Arran to obtain names from documentary sources. In addition I was allowed access by kind permission of Professor J. MacQueen to prior collections of Arran place-names tape-recorded from informants by members of the staff of the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh. It was pointed out to me that these collections were not complete and I would have to rescue what was left in Arran.

Place-name gathering in Scotland involves collecting from oral as well as from documentary sources, and in those areas where Gaelic has recently ceased to become the *gnáth-theanga* of the community in which some of its elders would preserve a memory of the older Gaelic traditions this factor is all the more important. The island of Arran falls into this category, and in the first half of 1975 three trips were made to the island to seek out those old folk who would likely be of help to me. As far as is known only one fluent native speaker of Arran Gaelic survives, though there are others who spoke Gaelic in their younger days, but who have now forgotten most of it; there are a few native speakers of other dialects of Gaelic living in Arran. Within Arran itself three sub-dialect areas of Gaelic are attested: northside (around Lochranza), Shiskine (west coast) and southside (Corriecravie to Brodick). The latter two are closer to each other than to the northside and show similarities to Manx and East Ulster Irish; the former bears resemblances to Tarbert (Mid-Argyll) Gaelic.

During the course of my visits some twenty informants were interviewed, mainly on the western side of the island where the tradition seems to have lingered the longest, and all were most helpful in availing me of their knowledge. The nomenclature obtained from these folk by means of a tape-recorder with reference to 6" OS. maps were mainly Gaelic and consisted of names of hills, glens, passes, crevices, individual rocks and unusual features, gullies, fields, parts of fields, roads, coastal inlets, creeks, tidal rocks, islets, villages, farms, bothies, paths, etc. In many cases my informants, who had not used or heard some of the names for a long period of time, required spiritual assistance in the form of a dram or three of Bell's best - an indispensable part of the field-worker's equipment in Scotland - to jog the memory. Whisky was usually offered before work commenced to put the informant at ease and to get rid of any formality. Unlike the Isle of Man (where I have collected names and folklore material) no abstainers were encountered. In some cases it was not only place-names that were obtained, but stories and yarns (including memories of illicit distilling and the clearances, fairy tales of the international folktale variety, smuggling, etc.), genealogies of various personalities, the odd bit of *skeet*, and in one instance a fragment of an old Arran song in Gaelic.

The standard equipment used in Scotland in oral collection is the tape-recorder and permission to use it was sought from the informant beforehand. Only on one occasion was permission refused; in this instance the names had to be written phonetically. On some people the tape-recorder had an interesting effect: it either made them reticent and they felt more relaxed when it was off, or it encouraged them to mix their valuable contribution with a lot of rubbish