

ANGLO-FRISIAN RELATIONS AND THE MAP OF BREG AND (H)REG, ESPECIALLY
IN ENGLISH, DUTCH AND FRISIAN PLACE NAMES*

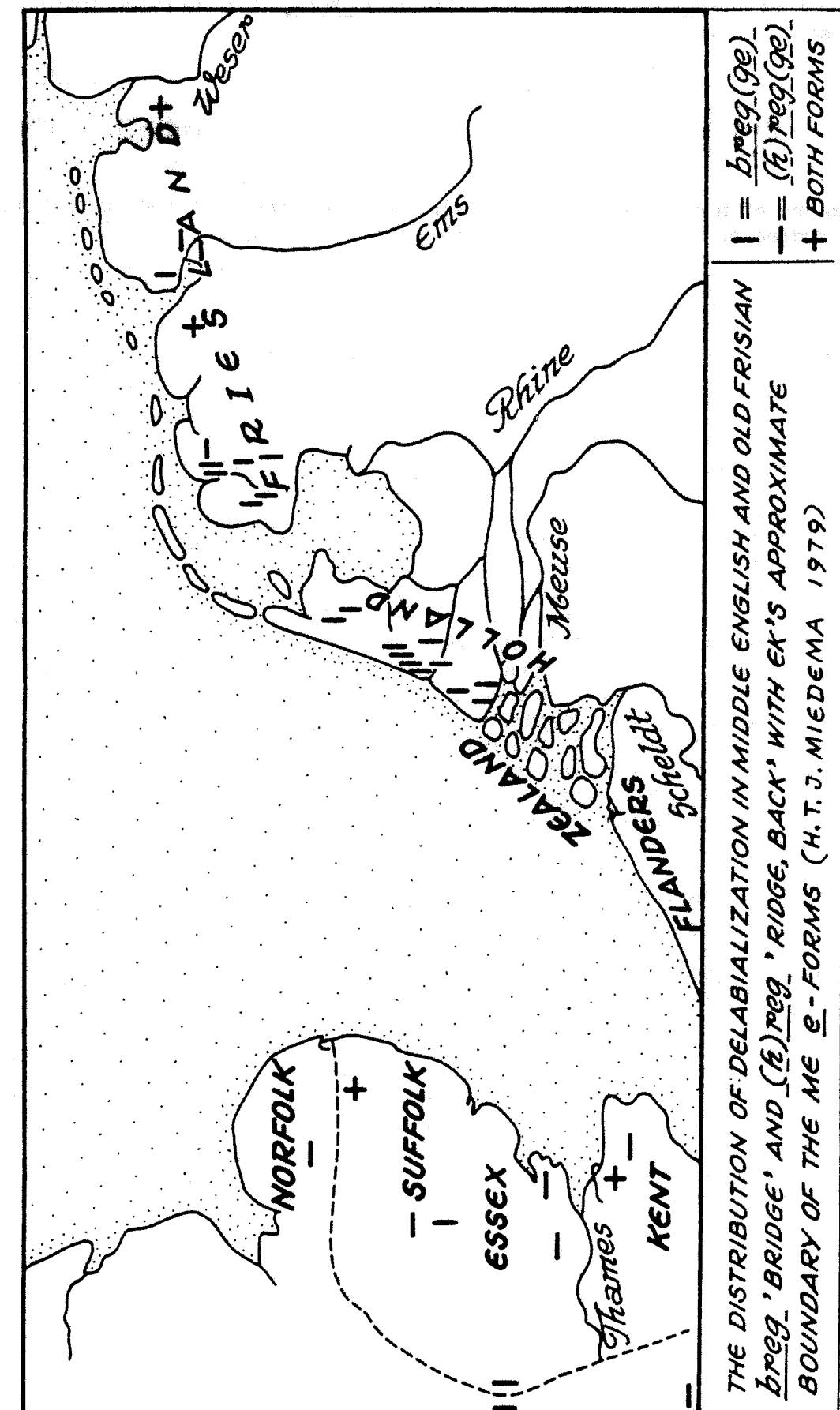
Tacitus' Ingvaeones proximi oceano had nothing to do with the later common dialect features developed around the North Sea during or after the Anglo-Saxon migrations. So we should avoid the term Ingvaeonic and use North-Sea Germanic when speaking about e.g. the compensatory lengthening found in gōs, fīf, sūth, the development of ō in mōna(th) and the delabialization of umlauted long ū and short u. Within North-Sea Germanic we find closer ties between Old English and Old Frisian, e.g. the common ā from ai (māra 'more'), ê from umlauted ô (swête 'sweet') and also the common Old Frisian and South Eastern Old English ê and e (instead of ī and i) for umlauted ū and u.

So late South Eastern OE and OFris have hêda(n), hêra(n), pet(t), hel(l) 'to hide, to hear, pit, hill'. Our breg and (h)reg map shows the distribution of the e-forms from Kent to Norfolk and on the continent, from the mouth of the river Meuse to the Europort of Rotterdam, northward all along the Frisian coastal provinces. Since 1100 the name Holland was used for the county around the mouths of the rivers Rhine and Meuse: in 1101 the count was named Florentius comes de Hollant. Before 1100 however this area belonged to what was still called Frisia: the count was known as the comes Fresonum or dux Frisiae.

After the Anglo-Saxon migrations the common Anglo-Frisian futhorc developed in several runic inscriptions showing new runes such as the ōs and âc, both variants of the older *ansuz, whereas the Common Germanic *ansuz-rune was now called aesc because of its new pronunciation as a front vowel. We find some new consonantal runes as well. Many sceattas, some of them inscribed with Pada or Lundonia, have been found on ancient Frisian habitation-sites and form the earliest indication of trade between any part of Dark-Age England and the continent. In 679 the prisoner-of-war Imma was sold to a Frisian slave trader in London (Bede IV, 22). The Frisians were the most adventurous of early Germanic traders.

The year before, bishop Wilfrid had travelled from England direct to Frisia. He stayed with the Frisian king Aldgisl and converted many Frisians to Christianity. Willibrord, Boniface and several other English missionaries sailed to the Frisians before and after 700. About 780 however the Christian Frisian student Liudger twice went from Utrecht to Alcuin in York for a period of study. York had an important Frisian colony then. The English place names containing the element Frīs- probably date back to the 8th and 9th c. They give proof of more Frisian relations with England. The North Sea was called Mare Fresicum in the time of Nennius (826) and later on even Oceanus Fresonicus by Adam Bremensis (ca 1050).

About 900 the Frisian terp area was the most densely inhabited part of the Low Countries. It was from these Northern estuaries and from the rivers Rhine and Meuse that the Frisian seafarers dominated the North Sea before the Danish invasions. The OFris e-forms on our map are from the period ca 1300-1500. Most of them date back to the 8th c. For the ME evidence (of the period 1350-1450) I refer to the most reliable material collected by McIntosh and Samuels for their new approach to ME dialectology. Professor Samuels kindly allowed me to copy his southern dialect forms and gave me



much valuable information. For more details see my papers in Liber Amicorum Weijnen (forthcoming: Assen 1979) and in Us Wurk 1979 (Frisian Institute, University of Groningen).

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*A summary of a paper given at the eleventh conference of the Council for Name Studies at Nottingham, April 7th 1979.

PROLEGOMENA TO THE STUDY OF SURNAMES IN IRELAND

This paper is based on that given orally under the title 'Surnames in the North of Ireland' at the Names Conference held in Nottingham in April 1979 but differs from it in two ways. Firstly, that portion which dealt with the surname Survey being carried out for the eleven counties in the north of Ireland - the six counties of Northern Ireland and the five contiguous counties immediately beyond it in the northern part of the Republic of Ireland - has been considerably truncated since it formed the subject of my report, 'The Progress of Name Studies in the North of Ireland', in vol. 1, part 1, of NOMINA, and many of the maps shown on slides had already been published in the second volume of the proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences held at Vienna in 1969. Secondly, the portion dealing with the types of surnames that one finds in Ulster, and in Ireland generally, has here been expanded and systematized to produce a parallel survey to my paper on Irish placenames published in vol. 2 of NOMINA.

Ireland, together with the parts of Scotland that fell within the ambit of Irish cultural expansion in the Middle Ages, has two separate and originally independent systems of surnames, one of native origin and growth dating from the 10th century, almost exclusively genealogical in type and based on an earlier system of sept names, the other ultimately of continental origin imported via southern Britain from the 13th century onwards. The West European surname system arose in the 11th century in northern Italy, a region which was politically and economically rather more advanced than the rest of western Europe at that time and where the need for something more than the simple personal name was first felt. The practice of using hereditary fixed surnames spread thence through France to England, and along this baseline through western Europe surnames of this type became general during the 13th and 14th centuries. The process was delayed in areas more remote from this baseline and in some outlying parts of western Europe was not fully established even at the beginning of the present century. In this West European surname system surnames are of four types:

1. Geographical, denoting the locality of origin or residence of the original name-bearer;
2. Genealogical, denoting usually the paternity of the original name-bearer;
3. Occupational, denoting the occupation of the original name-bearer;
4. Descriptive, denoting by a nickname some feature of the original name-bearer's appearance or character.

It has been said that in the English branch of the West European system the above four categories are represented approximately in the proportions of 40, 30, 20 and 10 per cent respectively. In the Irish surname system, by contrast, surnames of geographical type, particularly those based on place-names, are almost entirely absent, while the rest are entirely genealogical in form even where occupational and descriptive notions enter into their derivation.

In the present century a small number of Indian and Chinese surnames have established themselves in the country. Indian names augment those