

BS

# NOMINA

**A Journal of Name Studies Relating to Great Britain and Ireland**

## Volume 8

## 1984

**Editor**

Peter McClure

**Assistant Editor (English place-names) and Reviews Editor**

Alexander Rumble

**Assistant Editor (Celtic names)**

O.J. Padel

ISSN 0141 6340

© NOMINA 1985

## CONTENTS

## OBITUARIES

- Deirdre Flanagan (T. S. Ó MÁILLE) ... .. 3  
 J. E. B. Gover (MARGARET GELLING) ... .. 4

XVITH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAME STUDIES  
IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND 1984 ... .. 5

- ADAM WATSON, ELIZABETH ALLAN, AND IAN A. FRASER,  
 A study of the place-names of Upper Deeside ... .. 6  
 DOREEN WAUGH, Caithness place-names ... .. 15  
 GILLIAN FELLOWS-JENSEN, Place-names and settlements: some  
 problems of dating as exemplified by place-names in -bý ... .. 29  
 ALEXANDER R. RUMBLE, The status of written sources in  
 English onomastics ... .. 41  
 BRIAN Ó CUÍV, The family of Ó Gnímh in Ireland and Scotland:  
 a look at the sources ... .. 57

## ABSTRACT OF THESIS

- LANCE J. BRONNENKANT, Place-names and Anglo-Saxon paganism 72

## NOTES

- RICHARD COATES, Coldharbour - for the last time? ... .. 73  
 B. S. MAC AODHA, An untapped source for Irish place-names ... 79  
 AIDAN MACDONALD, The church names in Adamnán's Life of  
 Columba ... .. 83

- NUGAE ONOMASTICAE, compiled by Souris ... .. 85

## REVIEW ARTICLE

- PETER McCLURE, A new dictionary of first names: a review of  
 Leslie Dunkling and William Gosling, Everyman's Dictionary of  
 First Names ... .. 96

## REVIEWS

- Nils Wrander, English Place-Names in the Dative Plural  
 (MARGARET GELLING) ... .. 101  
 K. Rutherford Davis, Britons and Saxons: the Chiltern Region,  
 400-700 (MARGARET L. FAULL) ... .. 102  
 Adrian Room, A Concise Dictionary of Modern Place-Names in  
 Great Britain and Ireland (JOHN FIELD) ... .. 105

(continued overleaf)

## CONTENTS

## REVIEWS (continued)

Klaus Forster, <u>A Pronouncing Dictionary of English Place-Names</u> (JOHN McN. DODGSON) ... ..	108
G. E. Pointon, <u>BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names</u> (JOHN McN. DODGSON) ... ..	111
Charles de Beaurepaire, <u>Dictionnaire topographique du département de Seine-Maritime comprenant les noms de lieux</u> (CECILY CLARK)	114
Mary Lassiter, <u>Our Names, Our Selves</u> (CECILY CLARK) ... ..	116
Donnchadh Ó Corráin and Fidelma Maguire, <u>Gaelic Personal Names</u> (BRIAN Ó CUIV) ... ..	118

## NEWS

Bibliography, compiled by C. Clark and M. Bateson ... ..	121
Work in Progress, compiled by C. Clark ... ..	134
Notabilia and Personalia ... ..	136

In the latest number of the Bulletin of the Ulster Place-Name Society, 1981-2, the editor, Deirdre Flanagan, published an obituary of G. B. Adams, a member of the Ulster Place-Name Society and of this Council, who died in 1981. It is sad that Deirdre's own obituary appears so soon afterwards. The Council has lost a valued member, but some of the Council have lost a cherished friend.

My own acquaintance with Deirdre stretches back over thirty years, when she came to Galway as a member of the Q.U.B. team at an intercollege debate. I can still remember how she brought music into the traditionally harsh challenge of Ulster Irish.

Deirdre was a Belfast girl whose mother tongue was Donegal Irish. She read Celtic in Q.U.B., stayed on as a research scholar and later became lecturer in the Department of Celtic. She worked under four departmental heads in her day, M. A. O'Brien, Seán Mac Airt, Heinrich Wagner, Gerard Stockman, all of whom had some interest in place-names, particularly Mac Airt.

Deirdre and Seán Mac Airt were among the founders of the Ulster Place-Name Society, and they collaborated in editing lists of names from the Ordnance Survey field name books for Co. Antrim. The lists appeared in volumes i-iii of the Bulletin of the Ulster Place-Name Society during the years 1952-4. Mac Airt edited the journal over the first series, but it lapsed after his untimely death in 1958. A second series of the Bulletin began publication in 1978. The editor was Deirdre Flanagan, and as a member of an Coimisiún Logainmneacha (place-names commission), she was able to work in close collaboration with the late Éamonn de hÓir and afterwards with the present director, Art Ó Maolhabhail. Deirdre brought tremendous enthusiasm to her work as editor of the Bulletin, but it was no light task for one who, in addition to her teaching duties, had now three little girls to rear, while her health was never too robust.

Deirdre's work on place-names is well-known to all members of this Council. Much of it deals with the names on a basis of research in Irish ecclesiastical history, and a long list of publications testifies to her ability. She was undoubtedly the foremost contemporary scholar in Ireland in the particular field of names and church history. She was also the latest in a line of scholars who attracted attention by their work in onomastics, in the province of Ulster.

Interest in the subject was first aroused, almost certainly, by John O'Donovan, from Co. Kilkenny, a well-known historian and topographer, who was Professor of Celtic in Queen's College, Belfast, 1849-61. Of special importance for the study of Irish place-names was O'Donovan's work, much of it carried out under arduous conditions, as Archaeological Officer in the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, from about 1835 to 1845. He bore the responsibility of determining the name forms of all places on the new maps. Most of the results of his work have been published, some from government sources, in the 1851 edition of the Townland Index, and in a re-arrangement by P. W. Joyce in the three volumes of his Irish Names of Places, over the years 1887-1913. Part of the remainder was published, county by county, in a limited typewritten distribution, by Micheál Ó Flannagáin, about 1930. The rest has been available for some years on micro-film only, in the National Library of Ireland. It may be recalled that O'Donovan's son, a well-known correspondent for the Times, called O'Donovan Pasha, was killed in Khartoum with General Gordon, one hundred years ago exactly.

A gifted contemporary of O'Donovan's was William Reeves, from Charleville

on the Limerick-Cork border, and the two were good friends. Reeves spent many years as a curate in parishes in Ulster, before being appointed Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore in 1886. He was known internationally for his numerous publication on Irish ecclesiastical history and topography. This was the period when some remarkable scholars, from Ireland and the Continent, were beginning to investigate the valuable material in libraries from Ireland to Italy, previously practically untouched, dealing with Irish language and literature. O'Donovan and Reeves had some share in those investigations.

It is fitting to name Deirdre Flanagan as a worthy successor to the line of scholars referred to above, who were associated with Queen's and the Belfast area of Ulster. Those scholars did giants' work in onomastic studies over the past hundred years, and Deirdre added her share to the achievements of her predecessors. All members of this Council are in a position to appreciate it.

And now, in Deirdre's own language, Go ndéana Dia mhaith dhi 'may God be good to her'.

T. S. Ó MÁILLE

J. E. B. COVER

J. E. B. Cover's association with the English Place-Name Society began in the 1920s and lasted, in one form or another, until his death in May 1984. He took up the study as an amateur, and the Preface to The Place-Names of Worcestershire, dated 1927, pays tribute to the use the editors were allowed to make of his extensive collections from manuscript sources for Cornwall, Devon, Middlesex and Surrey. After this he was employed by the Society, and the Preface to The Place-Names of Sussex, dated 1929, records that the editors had 'for the first time the full advantage' of his 'sub-editorial' services. His name appears, together with those of Sir Allen Mawer and Sir Frank Stenton, on the title-pages of Vols VI-XVIII, except for Vols XII and XIV which are the work of P. H. Reaney and A. H. Smith. The extraordinary rate of production achieved by the Society during those years must have been due in large measure to his efforts.

Mr Gover left the Society's employment during the second world war, and from then until retirement he worked as a civil servant. He maintained his place-name interests by serving on the Council of the Society, latterly as Vice-President, and by supplying information to county editors from his collections of material. When I was working on the Berkshire survey I was very glad to be able to consult him about names in Hampshire.

Mr Gover's particular area of expertise was Old Cornish, and his typescript on Cornish place-names has been used by a number of scholars. In the Preface to the fourth edition of The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names Professor Ekwall wrote: 'For the articles on Cornish names invaluable help has been derived from Mr Gover's great manuscript survey.' More recently it has been used by the EPNS editor for Cornwall, Oliver Padel, who tells me that he is particularly sorry that Mr Gover did not live to see the first EPNS publication for that county, which is now in page proof.

MARGARET GELLING

The Sixteenth Annual Conference was held at Crombie Hall, University of Aberdeen, from Friday, March 30th to Monday, April 2nd 1984 by kind invitation of visiting Professor W. F. H. Nicolaisen, who organised a fine programme. After a warm welcome from Professor Charles Chadwick, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Aberdeen, conference opened with a paper from Professor G. W. S. Barrow on 'Place-names and the Scottish medieval historian'. On the morning of March 31st, papers were read by Mrs Doreen Waugh on 'Caithness place-names', Professor Brian Ó Cuív on 'The family of Ó Gnímh in Ireland and Scotland: a look at the sources', Dr Alexander Rumble on 'The status of written forms in English onomastics', and Mr Arthur Owen on 'Topographical waifs and strays: how name studies and strayed medieval charters can help each other'. The afternoon was devoted to a series of talks on the Upper Deeside Project: speakers included Dr Adam Watson, Mrs Elizabeth Allan, Mr Donald MacAulay, Mr John S. Smith, Mr Derrick McClure, and Mr Ian Fraser. On Sunday morning Mr Peter Kitson spoke on 'The quantitative study of Old English charter boundaries' and Dr Gillian Fellows-Jensen on 'Place-names and settlements: some problems of dating'. In the following pages we are pleased to publish, in revised form, four of the papers and also a report on the Upper Deeside Project.

This was Council's first visit to Aberdeen and it proved a stimulating one, both in the quality of conference papers and in the bracing atmosphere - a combination of brisk Aberdonian climate, lively folk entertainment, and an invigorating Sunday afternoon excursion. Adam Watson and Elizabeth Allan took us by coach up Deeside towards Balmoral, and on the way introduced us to several of the Project's informants, who spoke to us about the land and its names. At Auld Brig of Dee we stopped to meet Mr Charlie Wright, until his recent retirement a deer-stalker on the Balmoral Estate. Thence we drove to a hostelry at Braemar where, after taking appropriate spirits and an excellent meal, we were entertained by a magnificent display of Scottish piping from Mr Wright. It was a memorable afternoon and evening to conclude a very successful conference.

PETER MCCLURE