

## TWO NEW BOOKS BY GERMAN SCHOLARS

RUDIGER FUCHS, *Das Domesday Book und sein Umfeld: zur ethnischen und sozialen Aussagekraft einer Landesbeschreibung im England des 11. Jahrhunderts*, Historische Forschungen im Auftrag der historischen Kommission der Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur XIII, Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden GmbH: Stuttgart, 1987, 424 pp., price not stated.

This study of 'national' consciousness in late-eleventh-century England is based upon a detailed survey and analysis of the way that ethnic adjectives are deployed as personal bynames in Domesday Book. The background and basis of this usage is explored in minute detail that makes this a definitive study of this topic.

JAN GERCHOW, *Die Gedenküberlieferung der Angelsachsen, mit einem Katalog der libri vitae und Necrologien*, Arbeiten zur Frühmittelalterforschung XX, Walter de Gruyter: Berlin, 1988, xxxii + 417 pp., DM 198.

This book constitutes one of the most important contributions recently made to the study of Old English personal-naming. The author, who is a member of the interdisciplinary team at Freiburg University that is devoted to studying medieval 'commemorative documents' (viz. *libri vitae* and necrologies) as source-material for prosopographical and therefore also *pari passu* anthroponymical research, has assembled and analyzed almost thirty Old English documents of this kind, most but not all of them dating from the pre-Conquest period. Extracts from the three *libri vitae*, together with excerpts from numerous kalendars and monastic obituaries are edited here, each text being backed by palaeographical and textual commentary.

All the personal names found in these documents are listed, in accordance with the conventions of the school concerned, in a 'lemmatized' index: Germanic names, that is to say, are grouped under conventionalized Common Germanic forms of the 'themes' or elements from which they are formed; names of other origin are entered under standardized heads. A check-list of actual spellings facilitates reference to the relevant lemmata.

The name-vocabulary recorded, mainly dating from the tenth and eleventh centuries, forms a most valuable supplement to that known from the pre-existing repertories, making this a work that no student either of Old English personal names or of late Anglo-Saxon history can afford to disregard.

## A NEW PLACE-NAMES BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jeffrey Spittal and John Field

In the spring of 1985, the British Association for Local History let it be known that a series of handbooks was being planned. To the suggestion of a bibliography of place-names literature the chairman of the publications committee gave tentative agreement, as it appeared that this was the sort of guide the Association wished to place in the hands of local historians.<sup>1</sup> It was agreed that the geographical limits should be set at the boundaries of the Association's area of interest. Without undue arguments about the definition of the word 'British' or what constitutes the United Kingdom, it was soon decided that works to be listed were those on the place-names of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands. A general starting-date of 1920 was set, with generous overlaps for deserving cases.

As opportunity offered, notices were sent to the newsletters of various organizations. They were duly published and copied by the newsletters of yet other organizations. There began to come in sporadic replies of varying degrees of helpfulness, but these died down after a month or two, presumably as the various leaflets which had stimulated them began to go out of currency. Many initial replies were useful in laying to rest misgivings about how 'technical' should be the choice of works to present to 'local historians and others'. The conclusion was that the range should extend as far as might be indicated by reliable sources of information, and it became clear that publications from abroad would have to be listed, including many in languages other than those of the United Kingdom. There were some pleasant surprises when other bibliographers generously sent drafts of relevant sections of their work or when toponymists provided details of their own writings.

Amongst the bibliographical records searched, *Onoma* must receive first mention for its period of coverage (1950- ), both before and after the publication of the 'Roberts Bibliography' of 1959,<sup>1</sup> from which the most important items of enduring usefulness have been retained and a few important omissions made good. The *Linguistic Bibliography*, now published at The Hague by the Permanent International Committee of Linguists, has also been of great value especially because of its analytical indexing of conference papers and *Festschriften*, as well as for its many references to reviews. Its full details of publishers, dates and places of publication, as well as its recorded details of conferences published as parts of a regular periodical (but never, it seems, the same one twice running), are