

Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

Essay Prize

1. A prize of £100 will be awarded annually for the best essay on any topic relating to the place-names and/or personal names of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Man or the Channel Islands.
2. Submissions are invited from all students and other researchers. The prize will normally be awarded to those who have not previously had work in onomastics published.
3. Essays should be about 5,000 words in length.
4. Essays should in some way make an original contribution to the subject.
5. Two copies of the essay should be submitted in clear typescript, double-spaced, and including a bibliography of source material used and of books and authors cited.
6. Entries will be judged by a panel appointed by the President of the Society, and may be considered for publication in *Nomina*.
7. Entries must be submitted by 30th June each year. Provided an essay of sufficient merit is forthcoming, the winner will be announced in October of the same year.

Entries should be sent to:

Miss J. Scherr,  
 Hon. Secretary, Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland,  
 c/o Medical Library, School of Medical Science,  
 University of Bristol,  
 University Walk,  
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Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

Thirteenth Annual Study Conference: Cambridge 2004

The thirteenth annual study conference organized by the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland was held at Peterhouse, Cambridge, from 26 to 29 March 2004. The programme was organized by Dr. Oliver Padel, with the bonus of an exhibition of manuscripts at Corpus Christi College put on by the present and former Parker Librarians, Dr Christopher de Hamel and Professor Ray Page.

Dr. Rosemary Horrox (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge) began proceedings with an 'Introduction to Medieval Cambridge'. She remarked that priories and colleges tended to be on what was non-prime land economically in the days of the benefactors who gave the sites. On the Saturday Mr. Arthur Owen (Horncastle, Lincs) spoke on '*Gates and gotes* in east Lincolnshire: land drainage as a source for name studies'. Ms. Stella Pratt (Glasgow University) explored in the light of Margaret Gelling's work 'The Anglo-Saxon element in Scottish topographical place-names'. Dr. Alan James (Ashbourne, Derbys) asked 'Why *Cymry* and *Cumbria*?' He thought the currency, albeit not the origin, of these names was bound up with ethnic movements to and from the kingdom of Strathclyde after the Vikings sacked its capital in 870. Helen Watt and Jonathan Mackman (Public Record Office) illustrated the conservation of manuscripts in 'The E.179 project: lay subsidies in the National Archives'.

Professor Joan Greatrex (Cambridge) inquired 'Who were the monks of Ely?' geographically, finding them mostly East Anglian, more pronouncedly regional than those of Worcester or Christ Church Canterbury. Dr. Meredith Cane (University of Wales, Aberystwyth) expounded 'The Welsh adoption of Norman personal names'. John and Sheila Rowlands (Aberystwyth) combined the skills of an applied scientist and an historian in charting by means of thirty-year moving averages the change 'From patronymics to settled surnames in Wales'. Professor David Dumville (Girton College, Cambridge) spoke on 'The Northumbrian *Liber Vitae*: some historical and onomastic problems'. Professor Patrick Sims-Williams (University of Wales, Aberystwyth)

scanned the recently published Barrington Atlas of classical geography, seeking 'From *Vobrix* to *Sabrina*: objectivity and subjectivity in the identification of Continental Celtic place-names'. His prize exhibits were apparent evidence of a Celtic tribe settled in Morocco and a tributary of the Euphrates perhaps named by Galatians. Dr. Kay Muhr (Queen's University, Belfast) spoke on 'Surnames from saints' names in Ireland and Scotland', concentrating mainly on those in Gaelic *Mac Gille*-, many of which she found current on both sides of the Irish Sea so that it was hard to say where they began.

On Sunday the Annual General Meeting was followed by an excursion to the Anglo-Saxon burial ground at Sutton Hoo, partly guided by Professor Simon Keynes and partly by National Trust personnel. In the evening Dr. Paul Russell (Pembroke College, Cambridge) spoke on '*Cunedda, Briafael*: fossilized phonology in Brittonic personal names'. Dr. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh (St. John's College, Cambridge) spoke on '*Lochlann*, an Irish literary place-name' and its historical antecedents. Finally Mr. Peter Kitson (Stoke Prior, Worcs) examined how a North British dynast, likeliest the one called in Welsh *Dyfnwal Moelmud*, became a Middle Dutch Arthurian character '*Duvengael*'.

P.R.K.

#### Gordon Anderson (1922–2004)

Although he was not an onomast, our Society owes so much to Gordon Anderson that he well deserves to be commemorated here. As the husband of Cecily Clark he supportively encouraged her work on early English anthroponymy (see *Nomina* 15, 130–31); and he was himself treasurer of *Nomina*, and in charge of its production, for several years.

Gordon Rae Anderson was born in Aberdeen in 1922, the only son of Gordon Anderson and Margaret Rae. He was effectively an only child, having only a younger sister who died in childhood. In 1941 he entered the University of Aberdeen on a scholarship to read radio-physics, but already his heart was in English literature, which he studied on his return from wartime service in 1943–46 as a signals officer in the R.A.F. He then went on to Keble College, Oxford, for postgraduate work on Byron under Helen Gardner, and it was there that he met Cecily Clark through having digs in the same house. (He first won her affections by presenting her with an egg, of which he had, despite rationing, a good supply through his Scottish contacts.) After a brief spell as a schoolmaster, he returned to the University of Aberdeen in 1954 as a member of its administrative staff. Cecily's career brought her to the English Department at Aberdeen in 1957, and they married in 1959.

Six years later they moved to Cambridge when Gordon was appointed to a post in the Office of the General Board of the University. He enjoyed relating how, as part of their move, Cecily had brought her collection of rose-bushes southwards in a sleeping-compartment on the train. He worked in that department for fifteen years, and then as Secretary to the School of Biological Sciences until his retirement in 1983. (He later agreed, when it was suggested to him, that when computers came in he went out.) Gordon provided protection and support which helped Cecily to carry out the fine series of anthroponymic and other studies which belong to this period; and in the preface (dated 1969) to the second edition of her *Peterborough Chronicle*, Cecily wrote, 'To my husband, who allows one room of our house to revert to the twelfth century, my debt is incalculable'. His