

BOOK REVIEWS

Ågonamn (Field Names). Edited by Lars Huldén. Studier i Nordisk Filologi 71 — Skrifter Utgivna av Svenska Litteratursällskapet i Finland Nr 578. Institutionen för nordiska språk och nordisk litteratur, Regeringsgatan 11, SF-001010 Helsingfors, Finland, 1992. Pp. 207, illustrations. (Published simultaneously as *NORNA-rapporter* 50).

The variety of scholarly perspectives on names appears to be endless. A favorite one among these is the selection of a particular type of name as the focal point of a number of detailed but differently-angled explorations. In order to achieve this most effectively, mini-symposia centrally concerned with the chosen facet are ideal ways of bringing interested and knowledgeable scholars together in order to inform, and learn from, each other. NORNA, the Nordic Co-operative Committee for Name Studies, does this to perfection. For its seventeenth symposium, held at Svidja (Finland), May 24-26, 1991, it chose "Field Names" as its central topic, and the collection of fifteen essays under review form the *acta* of that meeting; five essays each come from Finland and Sweden, two each from Norway and Denmark, and one from the Faroes. All of them are followed by brief English summaries.

As is to be expected, almost all the articles deal with particular types of field names or with selected field-name elements as they occur in certain localities, from region to farm. Some of these can now only be examined historically, as for instance in Denmark (Jørgensen, Holm), others can be traced in their gradual disappearance due to reallocation of land, diking, change in the shape of fields, leasing of land, drainage (Huldén), others again are of recent coinage on farms established between 1910 and 1970 (Kepsu). At least one attempt is made to establish discrete categories of field names (Helleland), another paper places field names in a regional system (Harling-Kranck), a third concentrates on names of the so-called "runrigs" in Shetland (Melchers), and in several articles reference is made to field-name surveys and questionnaires (Pamp, Pitkänen, Nyström, Mattisson). One scholar examines the occurrence of the element *fält* "field" in Swedish-Finnish family names (Blomkvist).

All contributors take the meaning of the term "field names" (Swedish *ågonamn*, Norwegian *teignamn*, Danish *marknavne*) quite literally as referring to arable land or meadows, or, in Helleland's definition, "localities which are or have been used for the production of food, raw materials or fodder, whether in infield or outfield" (175). It might be helpful if in English, too, we were to return to such a limited definition, perhaps adapted to local circumstances.

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County Down III: The Mournes. Edited by Mícheál B. Ó Mainnín. Place-Names of Northern Ireland, Vol. 3. The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland (U.K.), 1993. Pp. xxi + 246, maps, appendices, bibliographies, glossary, index.

The Northern Ireland Place-Name Project of the Department of Celtic in The Queen's University of Belfast, whose first two volumes in their new publication series I reviewed in an earlier issue of this journal (*Names* 40.4), has now published a third volume in the series, covering the Mournes region in the south of County Down, i.e. the Barony of Mourne which includes the parish of Kilkeel, and the Barony of Upper Iveagh, Lower Half, including the parishes of Clonduff and Kilcoo. Essentially, the layout of the volume and its useful apparatus follow closely its two predecessors, and readers are therefore referred to my review of these two books. Because of the mountainous nature of much of the terrain covered, a special feature of this third volume is, however, an extensive section (nearly 70 pages) on the names of physical features — mountains, hills, rivers — of *The Mournes*. In this section, this reviewer particularly appreciates the detailed treatment of names containing the generic Irish (Gaelic) *sliabh* "a mountain," usually Anglicized as *Slieve* — (*Slieve Binnian*, *Slieve Donard*, *Slieve Fadda*, *Slieve Muck*, etc.) which features so importantly as an indicator of early Gaelic settlement in Scotland from the fifth century onwards. More generally, the systematic and,

one must suppose, near-comprehensive coverage of recorded name references (there are 105 for *Mourne* alone) is again astonishing and the generous space allowed for their presentation and discussion unusual, to say the very least, in place-name dictionaries. Readers are not simply offered an etymology while otherwise left to fend for themselves; instead, the editor guides them through the range of etymological possibilities, should such present themselves, and suggests arguments for his conclusions. This is a most welcome procedure.

In view of the policy of those involved in the project to achieve gradual coverage of the place names of all the six counties by cumulative treatment of their constituent parts and not sequentially county by county, the jigsaw puzzle of the *Place-Names of Northern Ireland* will not make complete sense until the very end of this series of publications, and it is therefore advisable to obtain the envisaged forty or so volumes as they appear lest the frustration of missing pieces mar the whole picture. This kind of encouragement should, however, not be necessary in respect of this excellent series, including the volume under review.

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The Place-Names of Shetland. By Jakob Jakobsen. Lerwick: The Shetland Library, 1993 (Reprinted by The Orcadian Ltd., Victoria Street, Kirkwall, Orkney). Pp. xviii + 273, illustrations, index.

On July 9, 1993, I had the pleasure of being present in the Shetland capital of Lerwick at a ceremony which was the culmination of the celebrations commemorating the centenary of the arrival of the Faroese scholar Jakob Jakobsen (1864-1918) in Shetland in July 1893. This ceremony included the launching of the long-awaited and much-needed reprint of Jakobsen's book *The Place-Names of Shetland* which had been long out of print and unavailable in the second-hand market. First published in 1936, the book was itself a belated, posthumous English edition

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of the author's Danish original *Shetlandsøernes Stednavne* which first appeared in 1901. This is worth bearing in mind when assessing the nature and value of the reprinted book which shows the distinct advantages of the author's extensive and painstaking fieldwork in the islands (unaided by modern technology) but also exhibits some shortcomings which would not have been tolerated in more recent publications on the subject.

Jakobsen has become a kind of folk-hero in Shetland, a reputation by no means undeserved in a part of the world which was only ceded to the Scottish crown in 1469 and which still justifiably prides itself on its Scandinavian, especially Norwegian, heritage and connections, including the place names which can be ascribed to its Norse history. Not only did Jakobsen collect a large store of place-name evidence from oral tradition but he also accumulated an extensive collection of dialect material which was originally published in Danish as *Det norrøne sprog på Shetland* (1897) and later in a two-volume English translation as *An Etymological Dictionary of the Norn Language in Shetland* (1928 and 1932). Both his dialect dictionary and his place-name book clearly echo Jakobsen's enthusiasm for the discovery of Norse linguistic survivals in Shetland but, in spite of this bias, form an invaluable source for evidence now no longer obtainable. It is advisable to use *The Place-Names of Shetland*, which fortunately has an index which the Danish original did not have, in conjunction with John Stewart's *Shetland Place-Names* (Lerwick 1987) and other more recent publications. Time has not stood still in Shetland place-name research, a fact which is brought to our attention in Gillian Fellows-Jensen's judicious introduction to the reprint in which she measures Jakobsen's undoubted achievements in terms of both the intellectual climate of his times and the findings of recent work in the second half of this century.

It may be unusual for reprints to create such excitement locally and to be noted internationally but, despite its undeniable flaws, Jakobsen's book deserves both its local support and its international notice. It reflects the spirit and practices of a pioneer, and those of us who have for so long been working without it or only with unwieldy photocopies are glad that a glaring gap on our shelves has now been filled. It is to be hoped that it will not be

long before the good people of Orkney will do for Hugh Marwick's *Orkney Farm-Names* (Kirkwall 1952) what the Shetland Library and the Jakob Jacobsen Centenary Committee have done for *The Place-Names of Shetland*.

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Reader zur Namenkunde II: Anthroponymie. Edited by Friedhelm Debus and Wilfried Seibicke. Germanistische Linguistik 115-118. Georg Olms Verlag, Hagentorwall 7, D-3200 Hildesheim, Germany (USA: 111 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019). Pp. 563. DM 98.00.

Four years after the first volume (reviewed in *Names* 39:2) in this important set of anthologies we now have a second collection of essays, this one exclusively devoted to the nature and study of personal names within a German context. Like its predecessor, it contains articles which, to the editors, appeared to be representative of the history of this field of study but have not yet been included in earlier anthologies. Authors were given the opportunity to bring their original versions up to date. The thirty contributions, all in German, are grouped under five headings: A. Personal Names in General. B. First or Given Names. C. Surnames (Family Names). D. Informal Personal Names. E. Personal Names in Transferred Usage ("Names as Words").

Students of names who specialize in anthroponymy will naturally be interested in all these topics and in the individual treatment which they receive by their respective authors. For the benefit of those readers of this journal for whom German personal names are more peripheral to their own interests it may, however, be preferable to highlight some of the essays which, apart from having their appropriate niche in the history of German anthropological studies in the second half of this century, mostly in the seventies and eighties, have caught this reviewer's eye because of a particular, or more general, appeal of their own. If I place Dietz Bering's paper "Gewalt gegen Namen" (Force against

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Names), at the top of this list it is not only because of its intrinsic contribution to the linguistic aspects of everyday antisemitism but also because it is a useful synthesis of the author's much lauded, more extensive study *Der Name als Stigma* (Name as Stigma), reviewed in an earlier issue of this journal (*Names* 37.1) and now, I understand, available in English. Bering has in several publications made us aware of the powerful political, racist and emotional, and therefore often sinister, responses which names can evoke, a salutary reminder that scholarship can never be neutral and detached. Related to these issues more generally are Torsten Hartmann's "Empirischer Beitrag zur Psychoonomastik" (Empirical Contribution to Psychoonomastics), and Rainer Frank's "Das Image von Rufnamen" (The Image of First Names), which report on tests concerning the reaction of others to particular names and name combinations and the ways in which names shape human behavior and lives. Such tests have also been conducted by others but Hartman's and Frank's data, analyses, interpretations and diagrammatic representations are particularly compelling. The questions raised in these two essays may also be taken into consideration in the choice of first names although other factors and pressures also play important roles (see Gerhard Koss, "Motivation bei der Wahl von Rufnamen" "Motivation in the Choice of First Names"). Extremely useful beyond a limited German context are also Wilfried Seibicke's bibliographical essay "Lexicographie deutscher Personennamen" (Lexicography of German Personal Names), and his examination of the terminological aspects of the study of personal names in German "Die Personennamen im gegenwärtigen Deutsch: Probleme der anthroponymischen Terminologie" (Personal Names in Contemporary German: Problems in the Anthroponymic Terminology). Vincent Blanár's investigation of "Personennamen und Sprachgemeinschaft" (Personal Names and Speech Community), in its search for models and principles should also have a far more general appeal than his Slovak evidence may suggest.

That the study of personal names is inseparable from socio-onomastic concerns is self-evident and very few of the essays collected in this anthology therefore do not include some investigation of names in a social setting centrally or at least peripherally

in their approaches. That such concerns are also vitally present in informal and unofficial nomenclatures becomes evident in the seven essays in Section D. Not surprisingly, three of these deal with nicknames of teachers and pupils in schools which have always been a hotbed of informal onomastic characterization and character assassination. Personal intimacy, too, creates its own, largely non-public, onomastic sphere, and I found note 2 in Ernst Leisi's article "Aspekte der Namengebung bei Liebespaaren" ("Aspects of Naming among Lovers"), especially informative and amusing in this respect. Is there any systematic and objective way of collecting this kind of highly personal material, however? According to Leisi's list, for example, only male partners appear occasionally to use terms which refer to body parts whereas female partners do not. Erotica, especially when apparently bordering on the obscene, are presumably hardly ever publicized. Regarding the important aspect of creativity in the naming of persons, Friedhelm Debus' essay "Original and Variation: Zur Kreativität bei der Benennung von Personen" (Original and Variation: On Creativity in the Naming of Persons), has, despite the limitation of its illustrations to German examples, general relevance and should be better known in the English-speaking world where similar principles clearly also apply.

In the last section (E), three of the four articles are perhaps too closely associated with questions arising from particularly German situations, but Rolfgang Schweickard's "Bemerkungen zum (Gegen-)stand der Deonomastischen Forschung" (Comments on the Subject and Status of Research into Names Used as Words), has wider implications. Although it looks as if the term *deonomastic(s)* is gaining international recognition in its reference to "lexemes derived from proper names," I hope that it is not yet too late to subvert or even reverse this tendency. I think I can safely claim not to be opposed to neologisms in the study of names or to a tightening of both onomastic concepts and their terminological expression — I have in fact encouraged all of these — but *deonomastic(s)* seems to be one of the less effective new coinages, in its morphological imbalance (preposition + noun). Perhaps, for once, English will not go along with other languages which, it seems, have already adopted this term.

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The scholarly study of personal names has sometimes been thought of as the somewhat neglected stepsister of place-name research. The publication of the volume under review has put an end to such perception, whether correct or speculative. Especially through its recent expansion into the fields of socio- and psychonomastics, anthroponymy has taken its rightful place beside toponymy.

Let me finish this review on a cheerful, though slightly disconcerting note by retelling a story from Gerhard Koss' essay. Two women were expecting babies in the same maternity ward of the local hospital. One of these was sure that her baby would be a boy and had chosen the name *Oliver*; the other was certain that she would give birth to a girl who was to be called *Sabine*. Both women were wrong in their prognoses; they therefore exchanged names. The boy who was supposed to have been a girl was now named *Oliver* and the boy who turned out to be a girl became *Sabine*. Where does that leave name scholars with their theories about motivations, choices and attitudes in the naming of babies?

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Das Vermessungsprotokoll für das Kirchspiel Ibbenbüren von 1604/05 (The Report on the Survey of the Parish of Ibbenbüren in 1604/05). By Günter Müller. Niederdeutsche Studien 38. Böhlau Verlag, Theodor-Heuss-Str. 76. Köln 90, Germany. Pp. x + 458. Maps, diagrams, tables, glossary, bibliography. DM 118.00.

It is customary to scour a large variety of texts for early forms of selected names in a quest for their linguistic origins and other etymological concerns. The extensive early seventeenth-century document edited and annotated in this volume may well constitute one of those valuable sources for the hunter of historical spellings, especially since it contains such a large number of minor names with detailed descriptions of their location and other characteristics. It is much less common, indeed very rare, to have a

document of this kind treated and interpreted as an onomastic text, as Günter Müller has done in this case.

The document in question is the manuscript report of the Emden surveyor Gerard Evers Pilotot on his survey of the agricultural land, more specifically the "seed land" used for the growing of crops, in the parish of Ibbenbüren, Westphalia, in the years 1604 and 1605, as part of a larger undertaking of the same kind for the county of Lingen between 1603 and 1605. A detailed description of the survey itself and of its execution, the number and status of surviving manuscripts, their linguistic features (mostly Dutch with a dash of Low German), and the importance of the report as a sourcebook for agricultural history are provided by the editor in an extensive introductory chapter. Then comes the text of the report itself. This is followed by an index of several hundred field-name elements (the German term *Flurnamen* actually has a wider range of meaning than the English term), arranged alphabetically from *achter* "behind" to *wuluen* "wolf." An analytical section discusses criteria that can be used in the separation of lexical and onymic elements (which is not an easy task), comments on the morphology of the names involved, compares the toponymicon of the survey with the equivalent names in the later Prussian survey report of the beginning of the nineteenth century, and treats in great detail the lexical items that are used as generics and specifics. This is followed by sections on farm-names and landowners and on settlement names, and by a list of farm names in the parish of Ibbenbüren in 1604. The book is completed by a glossary, a list of abbreviations, a bibliography, and four facsimile reproductions of parts of the report.

As can be seen from this brief synopsis, the book under review is much more than a reliable edition of a complex text. In keeping with Günter Müller's earlier work it continues a level of scholarship — from transcription to interpretation — which is quite remarkable. It would be impossible to do justice to its general achievements or even to some of its individual findings in a brief review like this but its felicitous combination of a fine grounding in local history and geography, a sound knowledge of the linguistic factors involved and, above all, a sensitive assessment of the components that go into the making of a systemic and yet

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pragmatic micro-toponymy can only be called a model of its kind. In its contribution to name studies, Müller's scholarship explores and exploits to the full the onymic dimensions of what is perhaps an unusual but otherwise very mundane text, always bearing in mind his own dictum that "place names serve to provide linguistic orientation in space" (385). It's how it's done that is so impressive! If it did not carry the burden of both the belabored cliché and the undesirable pun, one might offer the concluding judgement that everything falls into place in this book. Its accomplishment and the standards that it sets certainly leave this reviewer in a state of considerable awe. This is onomastic scholarship at its very best.

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Philologie der ältesten Ortsnamenüberlieferung (Philology of the Oldest Place-Name Tradition). Edited by Rudolf Schützeichel. Carl Winter Universitätsverlag, Lutherstr. 59, Heidelberg, Germany, 1992. Beiträge zur Namenforschung, Neue Folge, Beiht 40. Pp. 438, maps, index of authors. DM 200.00 (hardback).

Until the foundation of a German Society for Name Studies earlier this year (1993), the Arbeitskreis für Namenforschung was the only established organization in Germany which held regular meetings solely devoted to the discussion of onomastic matters. Its gatherings attracted name scholars not only from within Germany (mostly the former German Federal Republic) but also from adjacent countries; it still enjoys the support of those who otherwise, as so often happens in onomastics, tend to be "loners" in their own academic environment. Its main organizer and mover has been for many years the noted name scholar Rudolf Schützeichel who is also the editor of fourteen collected papers first read, or intended to be read, at a symposium in Kiel (Germany), October 1-3, 1991.

As the title of both the symposium and its *acta* indicates, onomastic research in central Europe, particularly in the German-speaking countries, has never lost touch with what it has done well for so long and what it still does best: the investigation and interpretation of onymic evidence in prehistory and early history, i.e., in times from which very little other linguistic materials, if any, have survived. For the purposes of such studies, terms like "old, older, oldest" are, of course, relative markers of antiquity; what is "oldest" in one area may well be only "old" in another, and it is always fascinating to see what individual researchers working in clearly defined areas make of such adjectival hierarchies. What kinds of names do, in fact, qualify to have the label "oldest" legitimately attached to them, especially when they are to be scrutinized with the aid of "philological" methods? As one can imagine, there are as many answers to this question as their particular regional or local circumstances warrant; there is therefore little hope of obtaining congruent or even compatible results from their study although certain general principles may emerge when the tactics to be employed are as circumscribed as in this volume.

In this collection of essays we find, for instance, (a) a report on the computer-aided reconstruction of problematic place names recorded in sources from the tenth to the twelfth centuries (Huisman), (b) a very full survey and persuasive analysis, from a "North-Sea-Germanic" perspective, of the place names in *-inge(n)* in the southwestern part of the Netherlands, the oldest of which go back to the middle of the sixth century AD although most of them are younger (Rentenaar), (c) a presentation of some of the philological questions concerning place names in Schleswig-Holstein which are often not recorded until the Middle Ages but are clearly centuries older (Laur), (d) an analysis of the oldest Slavonic settlement names in Schleswig-Holstein, from the end of the sixth to, at the latest, the middle of the twelfth century AD (Schmitz), (e) an account of the early place-name tradition in the records of the monastery of Corvey, mainly in the middle of the tenth century (Tiefenbach), (f) observations on the settlement names in the chartulary of St. Mary's Church in Aachen, especially in twelfth- and thirteenth-century copies (Neuss), (g) a study of the linguistic basis of the Germanic place-name tradition in the

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region of the rivers Saar and Mosel in the seventh and eighth centuries (Haubrichs), (h) a typology of the earliest, i.e., pre-900, settlement names in the Palatinate (Greule), (i) an account of the early medieval written transmission of the oldest place names in the Suisse romande (W. Müller), (j) an essay exploring the contribution the study of place names can make to the clarification of phoneme and grapheme developments in the *Romancia* before 900 AD (Pfister), (k) a commentary on the morphology of Bavarian place names in Old High German from the eighth to the eleventh century (Wiesinger), (l) an investigation of the origin and distribution of Bavarian place names in -öd (Lühr), (m) and observations on the transmission of place names of the ninth to the fourteenth century in the German-Slavonic contact area (Eichler). "Oldest," therefore, in practically all these papers, refers to the pre-medieval period and its recorded reflexes in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

This may seem like an unexpected uniformity, but when one considers that the underlying purpose of the symposium was a re-evaluation of the status and reliability of the medieval record of the names in question, this is perhaps not so surprising. The central question asked repeatedly concerns the relationship between original charters and suchlike documents, and their copies. Although everyone appears to be agreed that it is preferable to use originals when these are accessible, their availability is, of course, limited, and it is not always easy to determine what validity a copied medieval document has in the pursuit of the origin of names that are undoubtedly centuries older. One unexpected finding in that respect is that, in some instances, the copied document seems to be closer to the pronunciation and other properties of the name than the original but this does not invalidate the normal preference for the original.

The average length of the papers (c. 30 pages) and the extent and detail of the documentation are an indication of the editor's generosity in allowing considerable expansion as part of the revision of the papers as originally given at the symposium. Naturally, the volume under review has benefited greatly from this policy. There may not be many readers of this journal who will ever have the luxury of wrestling with problems caused by multiple

medieval spellings and their impact on the assessment of the earlier names they represent, nor may the philological aspects of the comparative validity, for place-name research, of originals and copies of medieval charters ever turn up in their investigations, but the papers gathered in this volume will nevertheless excite through their convincing methodology in trying to meet the challenges of a dilemma that those of us having to be content with a much later record would be only too glad to face. Isn't there also a little irony in the fact that the computer has become a valuable technical ally in the study of the "oldest" names?

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West Lothian Place Names. By John Garth Wilkinson. Torphin House, Harburn, West Lothian. EH55 8RT, Scotland. 1992; Pp. 32. Price not given.

The authoritative account of the *Place Names of West Lothian*, Angus Macdonald's published thesis of 1941, has been out of print for many years, and it is therefore helpful to have a new publication available which allows interested persons access to a study of the place names of that county. John Wilkinson's slim booklet is, of course, not a replacement of MacDonald's 1941 volume, nor does it slavishly follow its predecessor in matters of etymology and interpretation. While one may not agree with all the meanings suggested, its treatment of about 250 names is generally sound and reliable, making use of the most recent publications in the field of Scottish place names. The alphabetically arranged corpus of names is preceded by a useful introduction concerning the history and linguistic background of the former county of West Lothian, west of Edinburgh. The author's enthusiasm for his subject is obvious throughout this booklet.

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