Book Reviews

Dutch And Swedish Place-Names In Delaware. By A. R. Dunlap. (Newark, Delaware: Published for the Institute of Delaware History and Culture by the University of Delaware Press. 1956. Pp. 66. Cloth, $2.00; Paper, $1.00).

Basing his researches on seventeenth century maps and documents, Professor Dunlap's monograph is a worthy contribution to the growing place-name literature in America. He has studiously collected some 132 names of Dutch or Swedish origin applied within the land area of the present state of Delaware during the period 1638–1664; of these only 17 have survived. There is a well-written introduction with appropriate technical comment; the names are then listed alphabetically with a discussion of each; a complete index adds to the reference value of a work possessing both onomatological and historical importance.

A number of relevant place-names known to the author have purposely been excluded for stated reasons. Among these are certain ones which he terms "sub-geographical," but we are encouraged by the promise that all will be included in a fuller treatment which is projected.

Dunlap's new and plausible explanation of "Fort Oplandt" would be strengthened had he cited its pre-Scharf use in Hazard's *Annals*, from whom the former probably borrowed the word. Scharf gives no documentation for the name, while Hazard states his interpretation was from deVries, which Dunlap indicates has been garbled.

Introduced for the first time into the printed record are "Bathstove Run," "Forkin's Kill," "Ommelanden," and "Smith's Boom," which Dunlap has extracted from manuscript sources. His reinterpretations of "Bochten," "Bosie," "Mill Drope," "Muscle Cripple," "Primehook," "Tasawaijeeskijl," and "Treten ÖÖ" represent scholarly contributions which should not go unnoticed.

Professor Dunlap is now convinced that his earlier interpretation of "Hoerenkil" is no longer tenable, yet he is reluctant to approve the incident meaning which both Stewart and I have argued from

historic documentation is the correct one. Dunlap's scholarly conservatism will not allow him to accept the literal meaning of the Dutch form until a solution of the derivative Swedish variants is worked out to his satisfaction. This conviction is to be admired in view of the fact that the outstanding Swedish-American scholar, Dr. Amandus Johnson, has recently stated in a letter with which Dunlap is familiar that the *hoeren* interpretation to his mind "is open to neither discussion nor doubt." But who knows? The time may come when Dunlap will prove we are all wrong, although we believe the burden of proof rests with him.

C. A. Weslager

Skjergardsnamn frå Sunnmøre. By Arnfred Slyngstad. (Oslo: Det Norske Samlaget. 1951. Pp. 162)

Oluf Rygh's monumental place name compendium, *Norske Gaardnavne* (Kra., 1897–1924), inaugurated an era of absorbing scholarly and popular interest in place names and paved the way for a number of significant monographs on Norwegian toponymics. Farm names, river names, lake names, and mountain names have since been diligently studied and described by professors and graduate students, and ambitiously conceived place name archives have been founded in the university cities of Oslo and Bergen. So far, the prevailing interest has been in the recording and rough classification of the toponymic data collected in various districts, and very little has been done with respect to the organization and discussion of the already available material on a higher scientific level. There is, however, a strong tendency toward departmentalization in the more recent descriptions, and the book under review falls into the department of coast names, which was firmly established as a separate branch of investigation by Gustav Indrebø, in *Stadnamn frå Oslofjorden* (Oslo, 1929).

In Slyngstad's study one finds a relatively clear, well-indexed description of approximately 1100 names of smaller islets (*små holmer*), reefs, grounds, and shallows located in the coastal waters of Sunnmøre, western Norway. Even this large number of data is evidently not exhaustive, and people from the various localities will have little difficulty in supplying names that for some reason or other were not included in the book. However, one may safely

state that the author has succeeded in bringing out the salient types of reef names, and at least the great majority of the missing names could easily be added to the taxonomical groups that emerge as more or less distinct categories. It would take up too much space to enumerate and describe these classes of names here, but it may be observed that they differ only in insignificant details from those previously established in studies by Indrebø, Hovda *et al.* Slyngstad's work undoubtedly represents an important contribution to Norwegian place name scholarship, and it must be considered a useful handbook for students in this fascinating branch of toponymic investigation.

It is traditionally the unpleasant task of a reviewer to dwell on flaws and imperfections rather than on the good qualities of a scientific work. The few reservations voiced below, which could indeed be made about the majority of similar Norwegian name studies, pertain to what the reviewer regards as fundamental shortcomings, the most conspicuous of which is found in the phonetic recording of the names.

Most Norwegian students of toponymics, from Rygh on down, seem to have been poor or at least somewhat careless phoneticians, and Slyngstad is hardly any better than his predecessors in this respect. His phonetic notations are surprisingly inaccurate, considering the fact that he is a native of Sunnmøre. He employs Storm's phonetic alphabet, which is admittedly difficult to use for West-Norwegian dialects, and he modestly refers to his transcription as 'somewhat broad' (p. 6). It may be worth finding out just how broad is 'somewhat broad' in this instance, and to use the criterion of phonemic distinction as a sort of measuring-stick. The result is rather disappointing, as will be seen from a couple of examples selected at random. The southwestern Sunnmøre dialects (Herøy, Sande, Vanylven), with which the reviewer is intimately acquainted, have the following series of back vowel and diphthong phonemes: [u], [o], [ɔ], [ɔw], all occurring as long and short syllabic nuclei. The quality of Slyngstad's 'broad' transcription can now be conveniently estimated with reference to his use of the phonetic symbols [o] and [å] (IPA[ɔ]) from the point of view of phonemic distinctiveness. The symbol [o] is used to represent [o:] (*samvikro'dęnn*, p. 26), [o] (*torrvikhål'mąnne*, p. 27), [ɔw:] (*fotaflu'da*, p. 23), [ɔw] (*saltbom'bå*, p. 52), and [u] (*kobbetehålm'inn*,

p. 46). Similarly, Slyngstad's [å] is found to represent the phonemes [ɔ:] (*rå'ne*, p. 52), [ɔ] (*saltbomb'å*, p. 52), [o:] (*vå'renn*, p. 54), [o] (*sandhålm'enn*, p. 57), and [u] (*blområk'kå*, p. 96; the first *å* here stands for [u], the second for [ɔ]). It is obvious that this sort of transcription leaves much to be desired, and one wonders why the Norwegian place name students do not abandon their essentially useless 'broad phonetic transcription' in favor of either narrow phonetic, or preferably phonemic notation. Such easily found phonemically contrastive triplets as, e. g., [siwp]:[sewp]:[sɔwp] and [hulke]:[holke]:[hɔlke] would unambiguously indicate the vocalic and diphthongal distinctions involved here and, incidentally, help keep the number of misprints at a minimum. There are of course numerous additional flaws in the transcriptional system chosen by the author than those illustrated here, but it does not seem necessary to go into further details in a short review.

The unfortunate lack of consistency noted in the recording of the data naturally makes it exceedingly difficult to properly evaluate the author's etymologies of unusual words, and only a few passing remarks can be made here. The reef name *ku'a* (p. 83) in the Flåvær district (Herøy) cannot have any reference to Norw. *ku* 'cow', as is suggested by Slyngstad. There are actually two reefs situated at close proximity, each called ['kiwen] 'the hump,' and in local usage they are ordinarily referred to as ["kiwane] (pl.). One also wonders about the word *skaffer* in *skaf'ferhålminn*, which according to the author means 'innkeeper' (p. 76). The recorded tone (tone 1 rather than the normally expected tone 2) militates against this interpretation. The 'mysterious' compound element *flesk* in the name *kyrfles'kinne*, which Slyngstad discusses at lenght (p. 114), could probably be explained convincingly enough with reference to ON *flaski* m. (cf. L. Grandjean, *Søkortets Stednavne*, I [Copenh., 1945], pp. 29–30; on the whole, the author would have profited considerably from a deeper acquaintance with the reef name studies published in Denmark and Sweden). The curious reef name *årben'då* is assumed to mean 'the one which warns early' (p. 102, cf. K. Kopperstad in *MM*, 1925, p. 106f.), an explanation which appears to be supported, on the semantic side, with reference to the standard etymological explanation of *båe*, ON *boði* m. 'submerged reef' as 'the one which warns (against danger).' However, the current etymology of the reef appellative *boði* is based

on tenuous evidence (cf. M. S. Beeler and B. Ulvestad, "On the etymology of ON *boði*," in a forthcoming issue of *Arkiv för nord. filol.*), and it consequently seems advisable to search for another explanation of *årben'då*.

The enormously elaborate specification of reef appellatives in the coast dialects of Sunnmøre (discussed pp. 102–50) is of considerable interest, not only to Scandinavian place name students, but to students of general toponymics as well as of what has been called linguistic *Weltanschauung*. One may express the hope that Slyngstad will soon find time to discuss his rich material also from the point of view of the distinctive physical characteristics of the various reefs for which the recorded names and terms are used. This task will no doubt be an intricate, but probably not an impossible one, particularly if cautious relative frequency estimates are invoked as a methodological device, and if intradialectal and interdialectal frames of reference are kept rigorously distinct from the outset. The latter desideratum is, in the reviewer's opinion, of paramount importance in this kind of delicate research.

Bjarne Ulvestad

Drummers and Dreamers. By Click Relander. (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1956. pp. 345, 52 illustrations, appendix. $6.00.)

Recounted in this book is the story of a remnant band of non-treaty Indians, the Wanapums, who, when dispossessed of their homelands along the banks of the Columbia River in south central Washington, put up a long but futile struggle for survival. As the Columbia basin was settled in the course of the nineteenth century, the Wanapums were forced to retreat before the onrush of westward expansion. The book takes its title from the names often given to the several shamanistic prophets and preachers who, arising from time to time among the various tribes of the region, called upon their tribesmen to resist the encroachment of the white man. Among the last and most effective of such shamans in the Pacific Northwest was Smowhala the Dreamer (ca. 1820–1895), who admonished the Wanapums and their brethren not to abandon the wisdom of their forefathers for the ways of the intruder, teaching that the

highest form of wisdom came only from following the precepts and practices of the Dreamer religion. The Dreamer's *medicine* or knowledge was revealed to him through dreams, and his message found expression in highly ritualistic ceremonies. After Smowhala's death his religion and his message were taken up by his nephew Puck Hyah Toot, the last prophet of the nearly extinct Wanapum.

The author, through his association with Puck Hyah Toot, has rescued Smowhala and his teachings from oblivion. Mr. Relander's treatment of the Wanapum is altogether a sympathetic one. Although his approach and appeal are popular, it is at once evident that he has employed considerable research in obtaining the material for this study. An extensive bibliography is included in the book.

Of particular interest to the members of the American Name Society is the appendix (pp. 286–319), entitled "Geographic Names and Nomenclature." Here the author has gathered together considerable toponymic material – both old and new – pertaining to the Columbia River and the adjoining area from Pasco to Vantage, Washington; much of this material has not previously been recorded. The author has listed here the names of the various cities and towns of this region, indicating their provenience whenever possible and including other interesting information and sidelights. Included also are the Wanapum names of old native villages, campsites, and landmarks; although many of these place names have been superseded by newer names, they are nevertheless of historical and linguistic interest. It is regrettable that the current Indian pronunciation of such names has not been indicated; it would have been of much greater interest to onomatologists if phonetic transcriptions of these place names had also been included. It is to be noted, however, that the author possesses tape recordings of these place names as pronounced by Indian informants, and presumably these recordings might be made available to anyone seriously interested in Wanapum toponymy.

Oregon State College, Corvallis Walter C. Kraft

Studier i sammensatte Personnavne. By Kristen Møller. (Udvalg for Folkemaals Publikationer. Serie A. No. 13.) Copenhagen: J. H. Schultz Forlag, 1956. Pp. 128.

This excellent little book typifies the high-standard current research on names in Denmark and can in many respects serve as a model for similar studies in other countries. Although he modestly starts with the description of a rather small corpus of composite personal names in an East Jutland dialect, the author gradually extends the scope of his investigation until it encompasses similar and related phenomena in a number of European languages at various historical stages.

Using word order and stress pattern as his basic taxonomical criteria, Møller establishes what he considers the five main classes of general Danish personal name compounds, exemplified here by the combinatory possibilities of the appellative *Smed* 'blacksmith' and the Christian name *Søren* (surname, *Jensen*): Type 1: indefinite appellative plus Christian name, *Sméd-Søren* ('= main stress); 2: appellative in definite form plus Christian name, *Sméden Søren*; 3: appellative in indefinite form plus surname (or Christian name followed by surname, *Smed (Søren)* Jénsen; 4: Christian nameplus indefinite appellative, *Søren Sméd*; and 5: Christian name (or Christian name plus surname) plus appellative in definite form, *Søren (Jensen)-Smeden.*

It is demonstrated that type 5 is still alive and productive in the dialect under consideration, 1 and 4 are on the decline as productive types, and 2 and 3, in particular the former, belong to the standard (written) language and are essentially alien to the present dialect. Subsequently these compound types are discussed with reference to parallels in other languages. In this discussion historical considerations play an important part, and in many cases convincing corrections or reformulations of conclusions drawn in earlier accounts are suggested by the author.

While the discussion of the five main types forms the nucleus of the study, many other relevant compound name constructions are succinctly treated, for instance composite names consisting of a proprium preceded by a descriptive adjective, e. g., *Lille Lone* 'little Lone', *Gamle Larsen* 'old Larsen' (pp. 74ff.). Another, historically very significant, category: compound names consisting of a Christian name plus a postposited adjective, is treated pp. 86ff. Examples are *Olav den Hellige* 'Saint Olav', *Hamlet den første* 'Hamlet the First'. Here, the searching treatment of the OIcel. compound name variants with and without 'intervening' article (pp. 87ff.),

e. g., *Gizurr* (*enn*) *hviti* 'Gizurr (the) White', is particularly interesting, not least from a methodological point of view. While Finnur Jónsson and other scholars merely state that the article may or may not occur without any rule governing its (non) occurrence, Møller invokes statistical estimates to establish the norm, i. e., general rule, which he then states in terms of the salient meaning characteristics of the adjectives following the propria (p. 88). He also criticises the still prevalent notion that personal name compounds with the article (*hinn*, *inn* etc.) represent the original type, that the article was for various reasons dropped only at a relatively recent date, and he feels that 'one must prefer the notion . . . that [for instance] *Sigurðr ungi* is primary in relation to *Helgi inn hvassi*' (p. 96). It must, however, be noted that really conclusive proof for the validity of either of the two interpretations is yet to be adduced, as the author admits.

The book contains a large number of useful bibliographical references and has an adequate subject matter index. As a further positive point one may add that it is singularly free of misprints. The very concise summary in English (pp. 107–110) will no doubt be difficult to follow for uninitiated readers.

University of California Berkeley Bjarne Ulvestad

L'anthroponymie et la diplomatique. By Olaf Brattö. (Romanica Gothoburgensia, no. 3.) Göteborg: 1956. Pp. 27.

This slender monograph, from the pen of the young Swedish Romanist and onomatologist who is already known to our readers for his work on medieval Florentine anthroponymics (*Names*, 2, 67–68 and 4, 247–249), is intended to show how the study of personal names may be made useful to the student of early medieval charters and other documents. Questions concerning the authenticity and the proper dating of such documents are frequently asked, and the author shows how a critical examination of the personal names contained in them may often contribute to the solution. For the names of men and women are subject to the vagaries of fashion, as well as to the linguistic changes characteristic of given times and places: that is to say, personal names have a history. (The author emphasizes the necessity of linguistic training as part of the equip-

ment of the onomatologist.) If the history of the form and of the diffusion of any name is known, its occurrence in a document purporting to have been written at a particular place and time where the name is not otherwise found is prima facie evidence that the document in question may be a forgery. For this purpose, as well as for many others, what is needed is a series of detailed monographs on the histories of personal names, which will present the evidence for their geographical diffusion throughout the periods during which they are attested. I know of scarcely any studies of this character; and the usefulness of onomastic science to the student of documents is small without much more than we now have. Here is a rich field indeed for anyone who is really interested in the study of our common – and uncommon – personal names.

University of California Berkeley M. S. Beeler

Cantabria Preromana. By Antonio Tovar. (Publicaciones de la Universidad Internacional "Menéndez Pelayo," no. 2.) Madrid: 1955. Pp. 1–46.

The subtitle of this lecture by the former rector of the University of Salamanca – "what linguistics teaches us about the ancient Cantabrians" – does not make clear that it is from the study of place-names that the author is attempting to sketch some of the prehistory of this area in northern Spain fronting on the Bay of Biscay. The method, amply tested by many similar investigations carried on throughout Europe, consists in collecting all the place-names of the region in their oldest forms (which may be found either in medieval charters and other documents, or in records from classical antiquity), and then in attempting to explain them by relating them to parallel forms occurring elsewhere. By this method he isolates three linguistic strata for the pre-Roman period of the region he is studying. In the earliest he finds connections with Basque, Iberian, and other pre-Indoeuropean languages of the Mediterranean region. After 1000 B. C. – what the reasons are for the selection of this date are not made clear – he identifies correspondences with place-names of western and northern European provenience, names for which an Indoeuropean source can be made plausible. The designation of this stratum causes the author some

embarassment: a few years earlier he would have used the term "Illyrian," but the abandoning of the pan-Illyrian concept by Pokorny, its first champion, leads him to prefer the colorless "protoindoeuropeo," also employed by Carnoy and other contemporary investigators engaged in similar researches. This "Protoindoeuropean" pretty clearly corresponds to Krahe's "alteuropäisch," though much less precisely defined. Considerably later than these two strata, but still pre-Roman, are the many Celtic personal and place names, attesting the presence of an Indoeuropean people also known from historical records.

This monograph suffers from the defects common in other such studies, particularly in calling names found in distant parts of Europe the "same" if they happen to resemble one another more or less closely in their root-elements. We want complete agreement of whole words, or at least such regular patterns of derivation from widely diffused root-elements as Krahe has demonstrated, to build far-reaching historical conclusions on. Given the limitations of the method, Sr. Tovar has done a good job for a restricted area, and has demonstrated great learning and a thorough familiarity with current toponymic literature.

University of California Berkeley M. S. Beeler